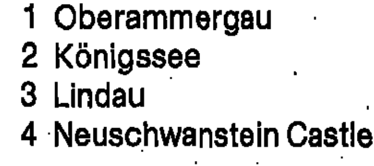
Routes to tour in Germany

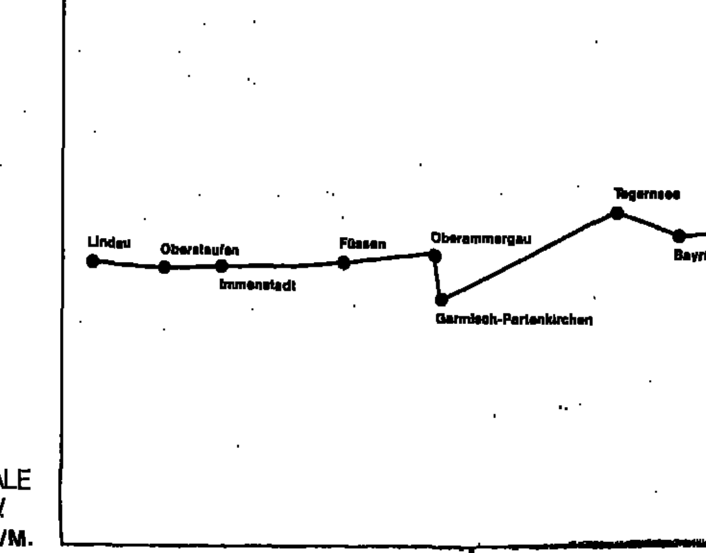


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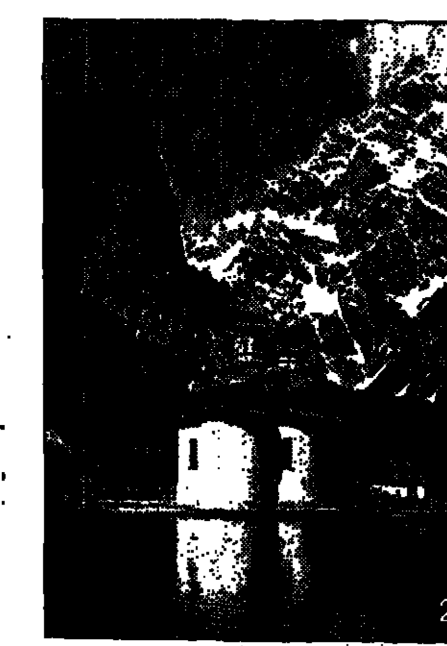


1 Oberammergau
2 Königssee
3 Lindau
4 Neuschwanstein Castle

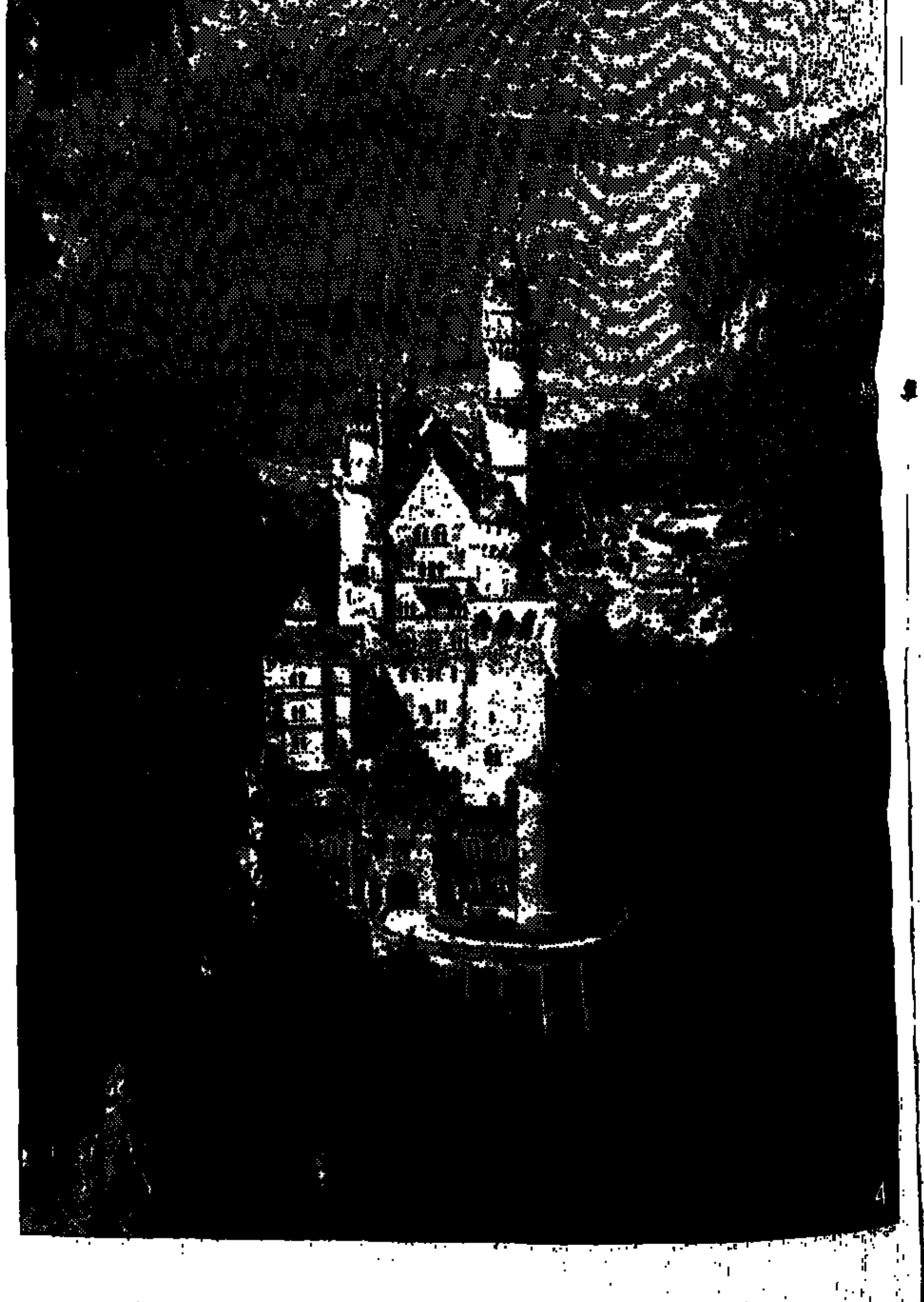


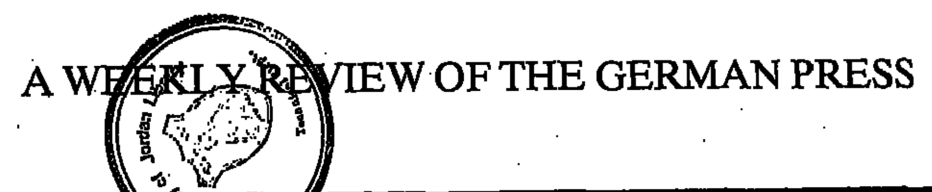


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The mood is optimistic as Gorbachov visits Bonn



After years of preparation marked by progress, setbacks and, at times, irritation, the moment has finally arrived.

Mikhail Gorbachov, advocate of "New Thinking", is visiting the Federal Republic of Germany. For the Germans, this is the first encounter with a Soviet leader on their home ground since the ageing Leonid Brezhnev came in 1981.

For the Soviets this is the first visit abroad by Mikhail Gorbachov as a president elected by the Congress of People's Deputies on the basis of democratic principles.

These catchwords already indicate the changes brought about in international politics by changes inside the Soviet Union

A look back at 1981 also shows just how much the relationship between Bonn and Moscow has intensified, slowly but in a forward direction.

In the eyes — and propaganda — of the former wartime enemy, today a partner in development, the Schmidt/Genscher Bonn government was at that time chained to American imperialism and militarism.

The Nato twin-track decision had already been valid for two years, but had not yet been implemented.

West Germans were divided in their views on the Soviet Union. Some, led by the rapidly growing peace movement, campaigned *against the new Nato missiles.*

Others felt that the excessive missile armament by the Soviet Union was the main reason for the deterioration in German-Soviet relations.

They felt duped by Brezhnev, the "father" of detente during the 70s.

Only hopes for agreement on medium-range missiles in the Geneva talks helped stabilise the atmosphere.

These hopes were dashed two years later when the deployment of these missiles became reality.

Both sides today refer to a decisive step *towards a new quality in German-*Soviet relations.

There was concern before the visit whether Gorbachov would be able to come at all in view of the awkward situation back home.

No-one, however, was worried that the visit might turn out to be a political failure.

Both sides are firmly convinced that things can only improve. The question is: how far and how fast?

Whether in the CSCE process or in disarmament efforts, Gorbachov in Moscow and the Kohl/Genscher government in Bonn no longer regard the "Common European House" as a nebulous long-range objective.

In fact, this house already exists. The fateful ties between its occupants almosts oblige them to live together under a common roof.

However, the (national) rooms are in *need of renovation, the doors must be* enlarged, and architects and craftsmen with similar ideas have to be found to carry out the necessary work.

As very practical matters are at stake any assessment of the relationship between Bonn and Moscow must remain realistic.

Substantial progress has been made in terms of the fundamental character of this relationship, but when it comes to details there are positive and negative aspects.

The sunny side of the Gorbachov visit undoubtedly includes the joint political declaration as well as the progress in relations reflected in the dozen or so agreements and in the gradually maturing agreements on industrial cooperation.

The obstacles to a more rapid intensification of relations include the general realisation, especially on the part of German industry, that closer forms of cooperation presuppose a fundamental renewal of the economic conditions in the *huge Soviet Union with its* gigantic bureaucracy and its enormous bottlenecks.

The political will to help Gorbachov in an effort to back the "historical opportunity" presented by his perestroika is undisputed in Bonn, but the everyday *routine of industrial cooperation is a lot* more drab.

The tug-of-war over a number of agreements, in particular the agreement on maritime and inland shipping, casts a shadow on the overall assessment.

It is not as if the issue of ships and their flags is all that important.

Moscow's unwillingness to compromise over the problem of how to include Berlin in the agreement reveals that even new thinking does not immediately eliminate old dependencies, for example, in the relationship with the alliance partner GDR.

Accordingly, Bonn and Moscow are marking time with respect to the German Question.

Headway would *seem to be possible,* on the other hand, with respect to the *treatment of the Germans in the Soviet* Union.

Apart from the general impetus to relations the signing of a general political declaration, prepared long in advance, is expected to be the highlight of the German-Soviet encounter in Bonn.

Although the declaration does not contain sensational details it does emphasise the joint desire to intensify cooperation.

It thus provides a good framework for German-Soviet relations.

Using terms such as "self-determination" the document corresponds by and large to western value concepts; this is why it is so important to Bonn.

For Moscow significance will undoubtedly be attached to the fact that this is the first time that the Bonn CDU/CSU/FDP government has signed a major joint document.

It is also the first document of this kind to be signed since the treaties between the Federal Republic of Germany and the East Bloc countries were concluded, treaties which were opposed at that time by the CDU and CSU.

This unique document supports the thesis that, fifty years after the outbreak of the second world war, German-Soviet relations are in the process of becoming better than normal.

For Bonn it is the culmination of its twenty-year Ostpolitik.

A great deal of care has been taken in the Federal Republic of Germany to create an atmosphere in which respect and admiration for the achievements of Mikhail Gorbachov can flourish.

His four-day visit may lead to new friendship between the two peoples.

Thomas Meyer
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 10 June 1989)

Meeting in Washington

Bonn President von Weizsäcker (left) in Washington with President Bush. Story page 3. (Photo: AP)



Jolly welcome for Gorbachov in Bonn. From left, General Secretary Gorbachov, a Soviet interpreter, Bonn Spokesman Klein and Chancellor Kohl. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

A special supplement on Berlin *is included* in this edition.

■ **INTERNATIONAL**

The world of Islam after the Ayatollah

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Hundreds of thousands of people *carried him to his grave amid rare* scenes of hysteria. Millions mourn for him. Even more devout Moslems will continue to regard him as a great man and a father figure of Islam.

Some people viewed Ayatollah Khomeini as one of the most brutal dictators of modern times.

To most Shiites he was the embodiment of their faith on earth and a champion of the oppressed and deprived. He kept the world in suspense for a whole decade.

His critics in the West oversimplify matters when taking stock of the terror of the mullah regime and putting Khomeini on a par with Hitler and Stalin.

A comparison between the 60,000 people claimed to have been killed by the Shah's secret police, Savak, and the perhaps greater number of victims of the thugs of the religious dictatorship is also meaningless.

One thing is certain: one terror regime was replaced by another. In Iran itself, however, there was a great deal of sympathy for some of the measures designed to oppress national, religious and intellectual minorities.

Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence on the British author of *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie, was just one of the more recent measures which triggered an international outcry.

The West finds it difficult to explain the fascination of a personality so alien to our own culture.

How could a scribe, just by means of his speeches, incite a nation to rebel against what seemed to be a firmly established dynasty and then overthrow the military regime — the Pahlevi monarchy was basically never more than this?

Shah Reza's ambitious industrialisation plans are only one explanation why peasants who had lost their land, industrial workers and bazaar traders trusted in the Ayatollah's simple language and hoped to find salvation in the return to traditional Islamic values.

Khomeini hardly kept any of his promises. But Islamic fundamentalism, which not only extends to the Shiite branch of Islam, will survive its symbolic figure.

The West must brace itself for many a surprise as long as the only bridge between Islamic culture and western civilisation is consumption-mindedness.

One misunderstanding which does not apply to Persia is that the import of modern military and other technology and the orientation of a small upper class to liberalism already represents an integration in the occidental way of thinking and feeling.

Two hundred years after the French Revolution it is worth recalling that, apart from the religious wars, the worst conceivable excesses took place in the name of political ideology.

Khomeini may have been an egocentric old man who was full of contempt for mankind, but did he differ all that much from earlier religious representatives in the West?

The Islamic Republic will survive its founder after the Teheran leadership agreed, without any power struggle, to appoint President Chamenei as Khomeini's successor.

The final decision on the future ruler, however, was deferred until the presidential election scheduled for August.

The favourite is the adaptable Speaker of the Teheran parliament, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, who seems most likely to be able to guarantee an economic and political liberalisation.

And what about the Opposition? During the Gulf war many people already hoped that the death of the aged despot would change everything at a stroke.

It now looks as if very little will *change despite the terrible economic si*tuation and the international isolation of the Islamic Republic which again became clear during the Rushdie affair.

There will definitely be no restoration of the "empire" dreamt of by Shah Reza's son Cyrus.

The leftwing people's mujahedin, which has suffered a particularly heavy toll of lives, lacks a nationwide basis for an overthrow of the mullah regime.

In a country which is not yet ready for a western-style democracy its radical-democratic programme would probably even fail if there were free elections.

The effects of one of the big mistakes made by the Khomeini regime continue to be felt today: the occupation of the US embassy in November 1979.

The humiliation of the USA and the repercussions still decisively influence the entire region from Lebanon to Afghanistan and to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The marked US engagement in the Gulf war, which was finally one of the reasons for Iran's decision to stop the war, would have hardly been conceivable without this act of violence breaching international law.

Plunged into chaos

At times the Ayatollah may have welcomed the Gulf war as a means of stabilising his regime.

It should be recalled, however, that it was Iraq's power-hungry leader, Saddam Hussein, who began the war.

Khomeini's demand for a punishment of the aggressor blocked a ceasefire for many years.

The use of poison gas by the Iraqis and the assignment to battle of Iranian "child soldiers" in the minefields were the gruesome culminations of a senseless eight-year struggle which plunged two flourishing newly industrialising countries into chaos.

The so-called civilised world, however, was decisively responsible for extending the war through its supplies of arms and chemicals.

The responsibility for the fate of this region remains.

The West must now try to lead Iran and its 40 million inhabitants back into the community of states.

Rafsanjani has already indicated that there is a willingness to seek rapprochement.

A leadership which is no longer based on personal charisma needs successes, especially in the economic field, and these are only conceivable with the help of the West.

It seems fair to ask whether it was clever on the part of President Bush to make any initiative towards Teheran conditional on the release of the American hostages from Lebanon.

Frank Rossow

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 9 June 1989)

Workers in Poland reject the workers' party

For the Polish United Workers' Party, which has ruled in Poland for over four decades, the experiment of facing up to the free vote of the electorate for the time ever completely misfired.

The overwhelming majority of the population not only voted against the ruling Communist party, but also against a system which calls itself socialist and which was imposed upon the country by force after the second world war with the help of the Red Army.

*The outcome of the first semi-democ*ratic election was a clear rejection of the leadership which had always claimed to speak on behalf of the people.

The election result has shaken the political landscape between the Oder and the Bug like an earthquake.

The fact that the government spokesman maintained that the vote does not reflect the "social will" due to numerous manipulations by the Opposition during the election campaign at best indicates how out of touch with reality and how arrogant the rulers are.

Furthermore, this reaction supports the notion that Communists will never voluntarily surrender power.

As the population blames the sorry state of the economy and the hardly bridgeable gap between Poland and Western Europe on the Communist party the latter is unable to present itself credibly.

One of the unsuccessful Communist party candidates aptly described this dilemma as follows:

"How can we explain that we have done everything wrong for 40 years, but that we shall do everything right from tomorrow onwards?"

The Workers' Party, to which hardly any workers belong, would have been turned into a splinter group were it not for the fact that the previously laid down distribution of seats in the Sejm safeguards its position of power.

The party leadership and the moderate Opposition led by Lech Walesa's "Solidarity Citizens' Committee", viewed this compromise as absolutely essential during the "round-table talks" two months ago in order to keep the critics in the respective camps quiet.

It was above all the catastrophic economic situation caused by the Communist party itself which forced the latter to take part in these talks.

Following the party's crushing defeat the reformers led by Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski are under pressure from the ranks of the Central Committee.

In complete misjudgement of the mood of the population most of the reformers ran as candidates for the Sejm on a national government coalition list.

The 50 per cent of the votes Rakowski expected the list to receive would have provided a sound basis for the legitimation of the Communist party leadership.

The national list, however, suffered a total defeat, above all due to the fact that the "Solidarity Citizen's Committee" called upon voters to cross out the names of the candidates on this list.

According to the election regulations the 35 mandates envisaged for the candidates of the national list should now be dropped altogether.

This, however, would lead to a national constitutional crisis, since the constitution expressly lays down the figure of 460 representatives in the Sejm.

The defeat of the reformers could result in their downfall; the neo-Stalinist hardliners could regain the upper hand.

Lech Walesa and Solidarity's leadership are well aware of this danger.

On the eve of the election Walesa declared that he would vote for the reformers on the national list, thus keeping open the possibility for a dialogue.

Now legitimated by a popular vote Walesa emerges from this election as a powerful man.

The candidates of the radical anti-Communist opposition suffered a bitter defeat.

Under these circumstances he can offer to cooperate with the Communist party.

Nevertheless, he will still be confronted by opposition *in his own camp*.

There is also a *danger of a shift in* power within Solidarity.

In the eyes of many of its activists cooperation with the Communist party is superfluous following the election victory.

Walesa and his advisers, however, are thinking further ahead.

First, Solidarity would be unable to present an experienced government team. What is more, it would be impossible to form a government due to the previously agreed on majority ratio of representation in the Sejm.

Second, Solidarity cannot be interested in directly assuming the responsibility of government, since the economic problems can at best be solved in the medium term and the current Opposition would then be obliged to share responsibility for the economic crisis within a year.

Solidarity will probably confine itself to supporting a government led by the reform wing of the Communist party.

It is highly improbable that such a government will be able to obtain a majority within the next four years, by the time the next election is held.

The financial assistance which will now be provided from abroad, especially by the USA and France, can be expected to lead to a temporary improvement in the country's economic situation.

The election outcome has weakened the arguments of those in the West who feel that the financial assistance will get lost in the labyrinth of the Communist planned economy.

So as not to jeopardise the emerging social compromise and so as not to encourage the opponents of reform in the Communist party this assistance must be provided.

In particular Bonn must play its part. There is also a lack of understanding in the ranks of Solidarity for Bonn's hesitance.

Thomas Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 7 June 1989)

The German Tribune

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■ **THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE**

Weizsäcker's trip to Washington is right on cue after missiles deal

The right man in the right place at the right time: Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker could not have planned his longest visit to America any better.

The timing might have been viewed as less favourable if President Bush had not made his breathtaking offer at the Brussels Nato summit and if the missiles dispute had not been settled.

Both the visit by George Bush to the Federal Republic of Germany and President von Weizsäcker's unofficial stay in the United States might then have led to a disaster for German-American relations.

The jubilation in Bonn would have been missing in the absence of the Bush conventional arms initiative.

The ceremonial reception at the Washington Kennedy Center, during which the Federal Republic of Germany and its head of state celebrated the 40th anniversary of its Basic Law, would have been so cool that the hosts could have done without the airconditioner on the warm June evening.

For a long time there was talk in West Germany, especially among the Social Democrats, of a "security partnership" with the East.

The Americans did not like the sound of this concept.

During his speech in Mainz President Bush coined a new positive concept. He would like to see Bonn and Washington, seeking common solutions, acting as "partners in leadership" to back the process of democratic liberalisation in Eastern Europe.

Richard von Weizsäcker took up this concept in almost every event during his tightly scheduled itinerary.

Although this was an "unofficial" visit the women and men he met during his six-day visit are some of America's most influential people.

Despite the great satisfaction at the missiles compromise achieved in Brussels, which Washington regards as a "success" of the Anglo-American position, there is still a great deal of mistrust of the Germans.

They are claimed to be solely interested in intensifying business ties with East Bloc countries and willing to neglect their security interests in doing so.

This position became clear during a discussion between Weizsäcker and authorities on Germany in Washington.

The discussion was dominated by questions relating to intra-German relations, the reactions to Gorbachov's reforms and possible go-it-alones by Bonn.

The Bonn President left no doubt about where the Federal Republic of Germany stands.

He warned his audience not to underestimate the intelligence of the Germans. He stressed that a German *Sonderweg* would be "madness" and that a second Rapallo is inconceivable.

The reference to own interests impresses Americans. After all, their postwar policies were not the result of pure brotherly love, but of "enlightened self-interest."

The Bonn President is a German statesman who offensively advocates this self-interest, without kindling fears and reviving the memory of the terror of the Third Reich.

Leading members of Congress, scientists, industry and church leaders were impressed. Weizsäcker listened attentively and laid bare contradictions.



He underlined that it is quite normal for the Federal Republic of Germany, as "the easternmost partner of the West", to have a special interest in the relationship with its socialist neighbours.

It is obvious that this can only be fostered in close coordination with the western alliance.

This applies to Nato and to the European Community.

In Weizsäcker's opinion, not only the internal market but also the political union must be attained in Western Europe.

The establishment of the internal market in the European Community by the end of 1992 is a further controversial subject for Americans, who fear that this will create a European fortress of protectionism.

Weizsäcker may not have been able to allay all fears during his visit. He was able, however, to clearly formulate German standpoints and make common ground discernible.

Many Americans find it difficult to accept the fact that East-West relations are improving.

Long-standing enemy stereotypes die hard. Yet even the "hardliners" in the discussions understood Weizsäcker's arguments.

Anyone who calls for human rights must also be willing to open their own doors to the victims of persecution.

Those who call for liberalisation, for example, in Hungary or Poland must also be willing to extend the economic basis of this liberalisation through trade.

The Bonn President, however, also warned that assistance must not be used as a lever to destabilise those East Bloc governments trying to reform their bankrupt system.

Even President Bush, who adopted a tough stance on this issue during his brief visit to Mainz, was more moderate in an interview with the *Washington Post* on 2 June.

Bush underlined that, even when supporting reforms, action should not be taken against the governments in East Bloc countries.

The West is moving on ice. Memories of Yalta discredit any idea of an agreement between Washington and Moscow on Europe.

The Bonn President knows when the Germans can play a role and when this is impossible.

He left no doubt about his conviction that the major issues of security must be settled between the big powers themselves.

The openness of Weizsäcker's discussions contributed towards clarifying the situation.

Events he attended in New York were just as important as the meetings with leading senators in the Capitol.

Whether speaking to the Appeal of Conscience foundation, which elected him as a "man of conscience", to the American-Jewish Committee, to the Union Theological Seminary or in a discussion with Seymour Reich, the chairman of a league of the most important Jewish organisations: the smaller the discussion group the easier Weizsäcker found it to convince his audience.

In America it is difficult for Germans to "canvass" for greater trust.

In the Union Theological Seminary, where *inter alia* the theologians Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich lectured, Sol Linnowitz, an expert on Central America and an ambassador during Jimmy Carter's presidency, gave an impressive description of the suffering inflicted upon him by the Germans, who murdered the members of his family.

Weizsäcker's subsequent speech and the ensuing discussion between Seminary theologians and the politicians, Weizsäcker, Linnowitz and Senator Stanford (North Carolina) forged links between worlds which seemed inconceivable following the horror of the war.

During his speech to the American-Jewish Committee the Bonn President reiterated the sentiment of his speech on 8 May, 1985:

"The past must not be forgotten or suppressed."

Weizsäcker offered more than partnership; he offered friendship. The small but influential circle which experienced his visit to the United States appreciated his activities.

Regardless of the harsh words about Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher or Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl in some American newspapers the Bonn President was not criticised during his visit to America.

His stay was hardly mentioned in the media.

It will take some time on both sides of the Atlantic before German-American relations are determined by a normal balance of interests.

Visits such as the one by Bonn President *Richard von Weizsäcker help speed* up the process.

Michael Groth

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 9 June 1989)

Appeal for West to develop a common strategy

The fact that Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker's visit to America followed so closely on the heels of both the agreement in Brussels over missiles and President Bush's reaffirmation about German American friendship was a stroke of luck, says the German ambassador in Washington, Jürgen Ruhfus.

Weizsäcker, the Berlin German Opera House company and Beethoven's "Ninth" together with Schiller's ode *An die Freude* created a festive ambience for the reception in the Kennedy Center marking the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The fact that Weizsäcker's visit was preceded by the positive stimuli provided by the American President during his visit to Europe did indeed seem like a stroke luck.

Speaking in the US State Department to conference delegates of the John Foster Dulles Programme for the Study of Leadership in Foreign Affairs, Weizsäcker referred to the challenges of the European process of unification.

At the invitation of the US Congress on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in the USA he extended the scope of his speech by turning to "world politics."

He discussed this topic with representatives and senators of the US Congress and with academics.

In the German embassy he met members of the German-American Council, which tries to extend mutual understanding at all levels.

In New York he thanked the American-Jewish Committee for the opportunity to enter into a dialogue and the Appeal of Conscience foundation for acknowledging his services.

He reinterpreted the honouring of his own person as an "acknowledgement of the continued efforts of my country to help develop a peaceful cooperation between nations."

The central theme of all his speeches was the desire to make his audiences understand the special interest of the Germans in the success of Gorbachov's reform policies.

At the same time he tried to make it clear that any attempt to pursue a separatist policy in Germany is absolutely absurd.

He emphasised that the willingness to eliminate enemy stereotypes should not overoptimistically turn into Gorbymania.

No-one knows whether the process of reform will be successful. The high-ranking German visitor stressed that the West must be prepared if reforms fail.

He added that one can only hope that they do succeed.

Weizsäcker's confirmation that the West has won the cold war because "the East has realised the superiority of our system" sounded like an echo of the words used by President Bush.

The Bonn President concluded that, as the Soviet Union cannot do justice to its role as a world power without internal reforms and more external openness, Moscow is forced to move towards western value concepts and principles.

He contended that the West must have an interest in such a development.

In Weizsäcker's opinion the Germans, situated at the crossroads between East and West, could assume a kind of leading role in the European Community and in the alliance when it comes to calling for more freedom and independence beyond the increasingly tattered Iron Curtain and intensifying cross-alliance cooperation.

If the previous alliance strategy was tailored to the cold war Weizsäcker feels that a common western strategy for peace is now needed.

Counting missiles should be entrusted to the military, and the latter should be directed to guarantee security with less armament.

Politicians should concentrate on finding a concept for the future in a changed East-West world.

This at any rate was how Weizsäcker's words sounded in the ears of his American hosts.

Very much the same thing could have been said by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Jürgen Koar

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 6 June 1989)

■ PEOPLE IN POLITICS

A minister's diary: talks in Spain, talks in Bonn, daughter's birthday (missed)

Protecting the environment is an international business. And a stressful one. Bonn's Environment Minister, Klaus Töpfer, CDU, can tell you a thing or two about that.

Two days before Whitsun he was at the Bilderberg Conference in northern Spain, where he had to do battle with his opposite number from America.

Representatives from Western Europe and North America have been meeting annually at the Bilderberg conferences since 1954 to discuss various issues. This year's conference was chaired by Britain's Lord Carrington.

Then, on Whit Sunday, Töpfer spent a few hours at home in Mainz, but in the evening he had to go to Frankfurt airport to catch a plane for Nairobi for the 15th administrative council meeting of the United Nations Environment Plan (UNEP).

He had two days of tough conference bargaining including bilateral talks and receptions and other duties.

He flew back to Frankfurt and took a helicopter to Bonn, where he was briefed for talks with the energy industry on the Wackersdorf recyling plant which took place on the same day in the Chancellery.

Töpfer seldom has time to stand still. He says environmental protection has reached the stage where efforts must not be slackened.

Töpfer has been in the Bonn cabinet for two years and is so committed to the environment that many of his staff say he is a workaholic.

Because he does not spare himself he gets irritated when anyone teases him about his successes in environmental affairs.

Mockery of the sort handed out by Franz Steinkühler, head of IG Metall, the engineering union, hurts Töpfer even though he does not admit it.

Steinkühler made the smug remark that the only alternative energy which the Bonn government generated was the hot air the Environment Minister produced.

Töpfer does not have the thick skin of a Friedrich Zimmermann or the slickness of a Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

No matter how much it irritates him that "the prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house," West German representatives of environmental protection and nature associations go head over heels abroad in praise of the Federal Republic's environmental protection policies.

When they get back home they pull the minister and his work to pieces.

But he can pride himself that the latest public opinion poll shows that people rate the CDU/CSU for the first time ahead of the SPD in their competence in environmental protection measures.

There are quite a few election campaign strategists who think that Töpfer is the Bonn government's bright hope — and there are many in the SPD who think the same.

Upsets like the recent political farce about nature protection legislation have done no harm.

On the contrary, the public turmoil caused by the comings and goings about passing the legislation in this legislative period, only drew attention to the government's intentions which, according to Töpfer, could only have a positive effect.

He said: "We should, perhaps try to create a furore more often. Then people would notice at least that we are doing some good."

Töpfer is constantly under criticism about his staff and nis Ministry's sphere of competence.

This is so not just because for the vast majority of Germans environmental protection is at the top of their list of political priorities, but also because the environment is becoming more and more important and more and more an international matter.

Without being obligatorily polite Töpfer said: "From the bottom of my heart I have to thank my staff who in the two years I have been responsible for the Ministry have constantly been under great strain. That cannot go on for ever. We urgently need more people."

Apart from the fact that some of his colleagues in government have not yet come round to recognising the importance of the Environment Ministry, Töpfer has to keep struggling with other departments over every piece of environmental protection legislation, departments which feel themselves to be affected and stand on their hind legs as specialists in a field rather than getting on with inter-disciplinary cooperation.

There have been scraps with the Economic Affairs Ministry over legislation regulating emissions and chemicals, and compromises have had to be wrung from the Agriculture Ministry in nature protection legislation.

But the reasons for the urgency of the situation have become more pressing. Töpfer said: "We have been able to maintain our post-war growth to some extent *by making compromises to the* disadvantage of the environment. We must now make compromises to the advantage of the environment."

For a long time he has believed we are in a period of transformation "to a new safety approach in our industrial society," for which he is mainly responsible within the ranks of the CDU.

"We are out of the 'stop and go' era. We are no longer talking about the environment; we have found the path away from individual considerations. We are no longer reacting we are acting. We are taking precautions and not coping with catastrophes," he said.

He quoted the example of the efforts for mandatory tests for environmental-friendliness, much disputed by industry, the further development of emission protection with a clear improvement on the security of declared data.

He wants far-reaching legislation covering factory safety, an early assessment of the dangers of new chemicals and their waste-products.

He also wants economic incentives, in sewage for instance, which reward those who do more for the environment.

Töpfer said proudly: "We are setting standards for the world." But the rest of the world is a worry.

"What is the point if the Federal Republic makes enormous efforts for environmental protection, pouring out billions, for instance, for the third stage for the purification of effluents, if in other regions of the world the forests are dying and the earth is being pushed towards climatic catastrophes."

His Chinese colleagues have told him *that for* the development of their country there must be a medium-term increase of the energy requirement from 800 million tons of coal, or the equivalent in heating terms, to 1.4 billion tons.

He said: "If that happens then there will be as much carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere as that emitted by the Federal Republic, Britain and France together."

Under such omens, how can the greenhouse effect, which is caused primarily by carbon dioxide, be prevented?

Countries, such as Brazil with the overexploitation of the tropical forest, see the dangers, but they point ever more energetically to the industrialised nations, which are responsible for the lion's share of environmental pollution.

The Brazilians ask what right does the industrialised North have to expect that "the peoples of the Third World should continue to live under undignified conditions just to keep their own 'natural' backyard pleasant?"

Or when swarms of locusts eat up everything in their path in Africa, and every expert knows that the only thing that can be done against this plague is to use DDT, strictly forbidden here.

The question is asked: what right do people in affluent countries have to demand that the countries plagued should suffer almost starvation because of the poisonous effects of DDT?

Nevertheless Klaus Töpfer is tenaciously and purposefully taking on this problem. He has at the top of his list of priorities a climate convention, similar to the Vienna Convention on the protection of the ozone layer.

In Nairobi, at the UNEP meeting, he was more specific about this.

He said that a convention alone was not enough. Appropriate protocols must be approve as quickly as possible, protocols which include specific directives.

Töpfer knows how difficult this will be. The convention on the ozone was a relatively easy matter because it involved chloro-fluro-carbons (CFCs) which everyone can comprehend. The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions is quite another matter for this is released every time anything is burnt.

The same is true also for methane gas, produced by almost every cow's stomach, which also exacerbates the Greenhouse Effect.

In Töpfer's view the industrialised nations must cultivate quite different approaches to the developing countries to get only half way to a solution.

The arrogance of the rich countries towards the poor has only led so far to a hardening of attitudes.

One course that could be taken is the remission of debt for the introduction in the Third World of measures to protect the environment.

As a kind of pilot project the Federal Republic has remitted DM817m of Kenya's debt against promises that the funds then available to Kenya in the budget would be invested in environmental protection measures.

But Töpfer wants to prevent what could be termed "environmental imperialism," which could lead to the creditor countries stipulating to the debtor nations what they should or should not do.

He rejects the export of nuclear energy to the Third World as a way out of the ecological crisis. He said succinctly: "One must be able to handle it and that includes applying the highest safety standards possible."

To prevent the greenhouse effect, he would prefer to extend the use of nuclear energy in the industrialised countries so as to make available to the countries of the Third World a larger share of fossil fuels. But can that be pushed through politically?

It would be difficult enough to draw up a European concept for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, even bearing in mind the single European market.

Some countries, such as France and Belgium, are dependent on nuclear energy for up to 70 per cent of their energy requirements. Others such as Denmark have no nuclear power stations.

In view of the current negotiations about the nuclear recycling plant at Wackersdorf the sore points are obvious.

"We must achieve a harmonisation of safety standards at ever higher levels," Töpfer said. In his view nuclear energy is the touchstone of Europe's willingness to integrate its energy policies.

Sisyphus, pushing his stone up the hill, had an easier task than does Klaus Töpfer.

He would like to have a right of veto as Environment Minister, similar to that available to the Finance Minister, who can point out the financial effects of every piece of legislation.

"It must be made clear that our environmental assets are equal in value to our financial assets. And it is possible that we could come to the view that our environmental assets are more important than our financial capital."

He then remembered that a few days ago he could have celebrated his tenth anniversary in political life. He said: "I know the date well because on the day I decided to enter politics my daughter Teresa was born.

"She is now 10, and I was not able to see her on her birthday this year."

No, Töpfer is not an office bearer. That is why he is so likeable.

Walter Bajohr

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 26 May 1989)

RHEINISCHER MERKUR



End of the stop-and-go era ... *Klaus* Töpfer. (Photo: Poly-Press)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Microfilms confirm fact of 1939 Hitler-Stalin pact

On the evening of 26 October, 1988, an icy wind blew the snow through the streets of Moscow.

It was even colder just outside the city in Uspenkoye, where the snow seemed to fall more heavily.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his host Mikhail Gorbachov were more than pleased to be in the snug warmth of the Soviet leader's dacha.

The discussion which developed in this atmosphere could almost be described as friendly. It was frank, even on topics which were extremely delicate.

Kohl and Gorbachov discussed, among other things, the agreements *drawn up* between Stalin and Hitler, including the protocols in which the two dictators specified the details of the occupation of the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

As Gorbachov explained to the Congress of People's Deputies after the talks he asked Kohl whether the Federal Republic has the original documents of the agreements.

The Chancellor said "yes", and it was agreed that Soviet scientists should visit Bonn to examine and photocopy the documents.

But Helmut Kohl was mistaken. Although, together with all unbiased historians, Kohl is certain that these agreements did exist, no one has been able to base this certainty on the examination of the original documents.

It was this fact which allowed the Soviet Union to dispute the existence of the agreements for many decades.

This began with the refusal by the Soviet principal prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crime trials to recognise the presented documents as evidence.

The statement by the Soviet Union's former ambassador in Bonn, Valentin Falin, that any assessment must be extremely cautious, since the existing documents might be fake, is undoubtedly only the most recent attempt to cast doubts upon the existence of such documents.

In the meantime, however, views to the contrary have been expressed in the Soviet Union, and not just in the Baltic republics.

The vice-chancellor of the Moscow College of History and Archives Science, Afanasyev, for example, wrote that western and Soviet researchers do not have the "slightest" doubt about "the authentic character of these texts" in view of the source situation.

Bonn government spokeman Hans Klein announced on 2 June that, on the basis of the talks between Gorbachov and Kohl, Soviet historians had visited the Bonn Foreign Office's political archives on two occasions to examine documents.

The archives contain a wealth of material, the content and history of which is described in an article by Helmut König published in the specialist journal *Osteuropa*.



Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov signs the non-aggression pact in 1939. Behind him, from left: German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop, Stalin and another Russian, U. Pavlov (Photo: dpa)

According to König's research the entire German-Soviet pact signed on 23 August and 28 September, 1939, is recorded on microfilms made of the roughly 10,000 pages of the most important records of the Office of the Reich's Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop.

There are originals of some of these records. These microfilms were compiled and then classified as a *Geheime Reichssache* (secret matter of the Reich) following the growing number of air-raids on Berlin in 1943 and 1944.

There were 20 rolls of film altogether. A legation official at that time by the name of Carl von Loesch deserves the credit for the fact that these films *still exist today.*

In March 1945 Loesch was transferred from Berlin to Mühlhausen in Thuringia, together with the Foreign Ministry records. This included the 20 rolls of microfilm.

A short while later the order was given in Berlin to destroy the archives. Loesch only partly obeyed orders.

He packed the rolls of film in a biscuit tin, wrapped them in cloths soaked in oil and then buried them.

Loesch later divulged his secret to a British officer. On 14 May, 1945, the tin was dug up in the presence of that officer and an American diplomat.

Its content initially remained in the hands of the western allies, but was then handed over to the political archives of the Bonn Foreign Office during the 50s,

This is where the documents are today: the nonaggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union of 23 August, 1939, in the German and Russian languages, its "Secret Supplementary Agreement", also in two languages, and the *associated Soviet ratification* document of 24 September, 1939.

Furthermore, there is a supplementary protocol with the exact description of the boundary demarcation in the partitioned Poland of 4 October, 1939, and, finally, a number of maps outlining the content of the agreements. Original documents with the notes of the discussions supplement this material.

Three aspects are of particular significance to the dicussion about the Secret Supplementary Agreement which sealed the fate of the Baltic states. First, the text of the protocol itself in its photocopied form.

There is reference to a "strictly confidential discussion" of "the question of the demarcation of mutual spheres of influence in Eastern Europe."

The text continues: "In the case of a political and territorial reorganisation in the areas belonging to the Baltic states (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) the northern border of Lithuania at the same time represents the border of the spheres of influence of Germany and of the USSR."

According to the wording of this agreement Poland was to be partitioned along the line demarcated by the Narev, Vistula and San rivers.

In South-East Europe the German Reich declared its "complete lack of interest" in Bessarabia.

The Soviet side has repeatedly expressed its doubts about the authenticity of the document because the then Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov, *signed in the Latin instead of in the Cyr*illic alphabet. This argument overlooks the fact that the existing Russian version of the protocol bears Molotov's signature in the Cyrillic alphabet.

Apparently, Molotov intended the Latin signature as a special gesture.

Second, the original documents of notes made by the German diplomats involved allow the conclusion to be drawn that the Secret Supplementary Agreement was viewed by the Soviets as a *conditio sine qua non*, an imperative requirement, for the conclusion of the Border and Friendship Agreement signed in September 1939.

Third, there is an original document of a German map of the eastern part of Central Europe on a scale of 1:1,000,000 (1cm = 10km) showing the demarcation of the German and Soviet spheres of influence as specified in the Secret Supplementary Agreement.

This map is a part of the Border and Friendship Agreement of 28 Septebmer, 1939. It was signed by Stalin and *Ribbentrop*.

One of the diplomats in the German delegation led by Foreign Minister Ribbentrop was the former German consul in Kiev, Andor Hencke.

Hencke's notes headlined "With the Reich Foreign Minister in Moscow" describe in detail how the border agreement was drawn up in the Kremlin.

"After full agreement was finally reached I presented the draft of the map to the Foreign Minister of the Reich and Stalin.

"Stalin wrote his name in big letters and jokingly asked: 'Is my signature also clear enough for you?'"

The signature is 58 centimetres high and therefore covers a large section of the map, which is 126cm by 110cm.

Dietrich Möller

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 3 June 1989)

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■ THE WORKFORCE

Tyre factory's Sunday-work scheme still faces some big skid tests

The Uniroyal tyre factory in Aachen wants to change its production system so volunteer workers can work a three-day, 32-hour week, including weekend shifts, instead of the present five-day, 39-hour week. There would be no drop in earnings. The aim of the plan, under which 400 more workers would be hired, is to increase production. Workers are happy with the idea, but there is plenty of opposition from a variety of sources. Helmut Breuer reports for the Bonn-based national daily, *Die Welt*.

Uniroyal's works council and workers at the Aachen tyre factory are all in favour of the 32-hour, three-day week devised by works council chairman Ferdinand Etschenberg.

So are the employers' association, the management, most Christian Democrats, the Free Democrats, Social Democrat Oskar Lafontaine, the Saar Premier, and IG Chemie, the chemical workers' union.

Its opponents include an equally unlikely line-up consisting of the bishop of Aachen, the Social Democratic Labour Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, the "social committees," or working-class wing, of the Christian Democrats and virtually the entire Social Democratic Party.

The 32-hour week is a controversial issue in Aachen, on the border between Germany, Belgium and Holland. It means working every Sunday, but the *management have agreed to hire an extra 400 staff if the scheme goes ahead.*

Ferdinand Etschenberg and his works council, most of whom are Social Democrats, have spent months working out the details. They are naturally in favour, as are the staff, but views differ on the wider implications.

Critics say the Uniroyal agreement is the beginning of the end of Sunday as a day of rest (only workers in essential services work on Sundays).

Supporters say the scheme is an exemplary model the entire country would do well to emulate.

Etschenberg says both views are wildly exaggerated. Management and staff have merely sought and found a sensible compromise.

He is a tall, slender, greying 58-year-old who has been a proud grandfather for the past six months. He has grown used to being suspected of all manner of dreadful things.

He is a master shot in his local rifle club, where members usually hold right-wing views. Most of them, he says, feel a man who has been a works councillor for 16 years must be a communist.

Only his friends classify him as a socialist. In fact he isn't a Social Democrat, and the SPD regards him as an arch-Catholic for his refusal to join the party.

He is, of course, a Catholic. Most people in Aachen are. So he is hard to pigeonhole politically.

Yet now that he has, as he sees it, arrived at a solution to the working hours problem with which the workmates to whom he is answerable are satisfied, he is suddenly vilified as a Judas, as worse than a Nazi.

Only a few days ago someone told him: "If you are allowed to get away with the 32-hour week your next step will be to agree to child labour."

For his workmates and fellow-members of the works council at Uniroyal Ferdinand Etschenberg can't put a foot wrong. They are behind him to a man. For priests, trade unionists and left-wing politicians he can't put a foot right.

The problem he merely set out to solve is one Uniroyal was posed by German consumers. Contrary to forecasts, the car industry has been booming for years, and so has the demand for car tyres.

The Aachen Uniroyal works used to be an Arbed steelworks. It was taken over in 1929 by Englebert, the Belgian (cycle) tyre manufacturer, and has since steadily expanded.

Rote Erde, the Aachen suburb where the Uniroyal works is, used to be on the outskirts of town. It is now an inner suburb and there is no further scope for expansion.

The factory is surrounded by railway lines and busy streets. Longer working hours are the only solution to the dilemma posed by the brisk demand for tyres.

Uniroyal, taken over by US Rubber in 1958 and sold to Conti-Gummi in 1979, could sell 5.5 million tyres a year, but its 2,000 Aachen staff can only make four million, working three shifts and round the clock.

Unsurprisingly, the management approached the works council with the proposal to work 18 shifts a week instead of 16. That would have meant over 1,000 shift workers having to work between 10 p.m. on Sunday and 10 p.m. the following Saturday.

They would naturally have rotated, but work would nonetheless have gone on round the clock, with the sole exception of Sunday.

Etschenberg and his fellow-councillors felt the management's proposals were unacceptable because they would have ruined the weekend for many Uniroyal shift workers.

He also says he immediately realised that simply refusing to consider the idea was not the answer, because higher productivity at the Aachen works was essential if Uniroyal was to run at a profit.

Profit, he says, is a subject many Germans feel almost as uneasy about discussing as they do about discussing Aids.

In the medium term the Aachen works might face closure because Sunday working has never been a problem in Herstal, *near Liège, half an hour's drive from* Aachen in neighbouring Belgium.

The Herstal works has enormous expansion potential, so the Aachen works council put their heads together and started drawing up proposals of their own.

The idea that took shape carries conviction, and not just at first glance.

What it involves is a 15-shift, five-day week — from 6 a.m. on Monday to 6 a.m. on Saturday — for most Aachen tyremakers.

On Saturday and Sunday an extra



The man in the thick of it ... Ferdinand Etschenberg (Photo: Die Welt)

400 new staff are to work *two* 12-hour shifts, plus a single *eight-hour* weekday shift, leaving them *with* four days off per week.

The 400 would work only 32 hours, but with bonuses they would in fact earn the same as weekday tyremakers working a 39-hour week.

What is more, they would be entitled to the same welfare provisions and social safeguards as the rest of the staff. The works council submitted this idea to the management, whose response was unexpected, to say the least.

"Dear me, Etschenberg, *I'm* afraid you're a case for Düren," one director said. (The local lunatic asylum is in neighbouring Düren.)

The management recovered from the shock of being offered more than they had demanded. They costed the scheme and decided, to quote management spokesman Karl-Artur Rappe, it was both economic and feasible.

Workmates were briefed at a works meeting. They were imme*diately* delighted at the idea of working a five-day week.

Willi Laroche, 49, says: "I've been working shift for 33 years and only have two full weekends a month at home for the family."

Nearly 200 Uniroyal workers have already applied to work at *weekends.* They are attracted by the idea of a three-day working week.

Zacharias Stergiopoulos, for instance, is keen to spend his four-day "weekend" with his son and at evening classes.

His Turkish workmate Orhan Recep says he will "at long last" be able to help his working wife around the house and with bringing up their daughter.

Peter Capellmann, a 25-year-old German, is looking forward to spending his days off touring the nearby *Eifel* region, which isn't overrun *during the* week.

Hundreds of applications have been received from outsiders, especially from nearby Hückelhoven, where the mine faces closure.

What is more, Etschenberg says, "we can take them all, since we rely mainly on semi-skilled labour."

In Aachen itself unemployment is high, he adds. Twelve per cent. But the idea has encountered growing opposition, both in Aachen and further afield.

The Greens, for instance, brand it "an attack on Sunday." Etschenberg's own parish priest has accused him of preventing people from going to Mass.

He says most shift workers at Uniroyal work on Saturday and Sunday evenings and don't go to Mass in any case. But he is upset by arguments along

Continued on page 7





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■ TRADE

A wait-and-see attitude towards China

Conditions verging on civil war in China have alarmed German businessmen. But the German business community does not yet see any ground for drastic reactions.

The China trade has always resembled a succession of hot and cold showers due to the desire for swifter industrial development constantly being hamstrung by shortage of foreign exchange and by the Peking leadership's fears of foreign debt.

Whenever party control committees gained the impression that develop*ments* were getting out of hand, as was the case in 1980 and 1986, projects that had been agreed in lengthy negotiations were cancelled overnight.

At the same time attempts were made in the coastal provinces to limit foreign debts by offering incentives to foreign entrepreneurs who were prepared to make direct investments and even by issuing dollar-denominated shares for sale to foreigners.

Fresh hopes of a higher volume of exports to China sprouted in 1987, but as a percentage of German exports the China trade has in fact declined steadily since 1986.

Last year goods worth DM9.3bn changed hands between the two countries, with German exports totalling DM5bn and imports from China amounting to DM4.3bn.

So German trade with China, population 1bn, *is* on a par with trade with Taiwan, population a mere 20m.

Since 1978, when the Chinese gingerly began lifting the Bamboo Curtain, German exporters have faced many disappointments.

Entrepreneurs and trade associations may emphasise that all current contracts are being fulfilled by the German parties to them, but in the wake of the Beijing bloodbath the pundits are expecting a further setback.

Hans-Jürgen Müller, business manager of the German Export Trade Association, says shipments now seem to be heading for Hong Kong rather than for Shanghai for intermediate storage if need be until such time as the situation there is clear.

He also feels no-one is likely to travel to Peking at present to hold fresh trade talks, although that might not rule out the possibility of business as usual elsewhere in what is a gigantic country.

Like other connoisseurs of the China trade, Herr Müller fears the Chinese leaders might, after a reshuffle in Peking, be inclined to restrict imports and to step up exports in a bid to return to the pre-1978 golden days when, for 20 years, China maintained a surplus in trade with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Karl-Hermann Fink, business manager of the Cologne-based Committee on German Trade with the East, expects German firms to be more cautious about investing in China after the bloodbath shock.

German companies have so far invested between DM200m and DM250m in joint ventures. German banks feel so much damage has been done in Peking that great caution is called for.

Insiders feel the export credit insurance terms offered by the Hermes Corporation in Hamburg will be a crucial factor in future German business commitments in China.

The state-run Hermes scheme has an inter-Ministerial committee which reviews terms offered once a fortnight.

If it decides no longer to offer insurance cover on export contracts with China, trade will be "a dead duck" for the time being.

There are also fears that Peking might revert to the erstwhile principle of pegging imports more strictly to the volume of exports and of declining any credit terms offered.

Importers, in contrast, show few signs of pessimism. Peking, they say, will continue to be interested in stepping up the



volume of exports to earn the growing amounts of foreign exchange needed to press ahead with development plans.

The Wholesale and Foreign Trade Association in Bonn says its members were first shocked but feels exports are likelier to be hit than imports.

This view was expressed by Erika Janzon-Schlüsselburg, the association's expert on China trade.

In 1987 and 1988, she said, imports from China had increased by 28 and 26 per cent respectively to DM4.3bn, followed by a record 42-per-cent growth rate in the first quarter of 1989.

But there was no way of telling what trends economic policymakers in Peking might now set for individual sectors of the economy and where they might feel the priorities lay.

Dieter Ferber

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 June 1989)

Gorbachov visit likely to herald more joint deals

More large-scale contracts and cooperation agreements between German and Soviet companies are likely to be signed during Mr Gorbachov's visit to the Federal Republic.

The Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry has been supplied with a list of sectors in which the Soviet Union would like economic cooperation.

They include medical engineering, aerospace, environmental technology, carmaking and high-temperature reactors.

In October 1988 a consortium of German banks earmarked DM3bn in credit facilities for trade with Russia. Little more than half has so far been invested in modernising Soviet light industry and foodstuffs industries.

German mechanical engineering companies had already signed a wide range of contracts within the framework of this credit facility. A further 50 or so contracts had been signed on cooperation in manufacturing.

German firms were not required to notify the authorities of any such ventures, the Ministry added, so the exact number was not known.

During the Soviet leader's visit a treaty on investment promotion and investment protection is to be signed. It will provide safeguards for German business investment in the Soviet Union.

Another agreement is to be signed on vocational training and further training of Soviet specialists and managerial staff.

Intensive preparations have been made in recent months to flesh out the details of this agreement.

Yet German businessmen remain extremely sceptical about the prospects of more intensive cooperation. Their scepticism is mainly due to the shortage of skilled management staff in the Soviet Union and the totally inadequate transport infrastructure and supply industries from the viewpoint of industrial output.

Trade between the Federal Republic and the Soviet Union nonetheless increased considerably last year, and the growth rate has been even higher in the first quarter of 1989. This followed a decline in trade from 1985 on.

Last year, however, German exports were up 20 per cent to DM9.4bn, while overall import-export trade was up nearly eight per cent to DM16.3bn. Imports from the Soviet Union were 5.3 per cent down.

In the first quarter of this year exports were up by a further 35.5 per cent, while imports increased by 11.8 per cent ot DM1.8bn, due entirely to higher prices for energy (oil and gas) and commodities.

The Economic Affairs Ministry expects the volume of trade in 1989 to be well ahead of last year's figure.

Hans Overberg

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 8 June 1989)

Continued from page 6

these lines. What about police, nurses, waiters and others who have no choice but to work on Sunday? And what use is a day of rest when you're unemployed?

The scheme awaits final approval by Social Democrat Hermann Heinemann, Labour Minister in Düsseldorf, who has publicly complained that he is being "blackmailed" in connection with the Aachen "model."

He has certainly been at loggerheads with IG Chemie general secretary Hermann Rappe, who is also a Social Democrat (and a member of the Bonn Bundestag), but backs his Aachen colleagues.

Herr Heinemann feels he is caught in a cleft stick. Whatever he does will be wrong. He will be called either a job-killer or the man who put paid to *Sunday as the day of rest.*

As a precaution he has applied to Ernst Benda, past president of the Federal Constitutional Court, for an expertise.

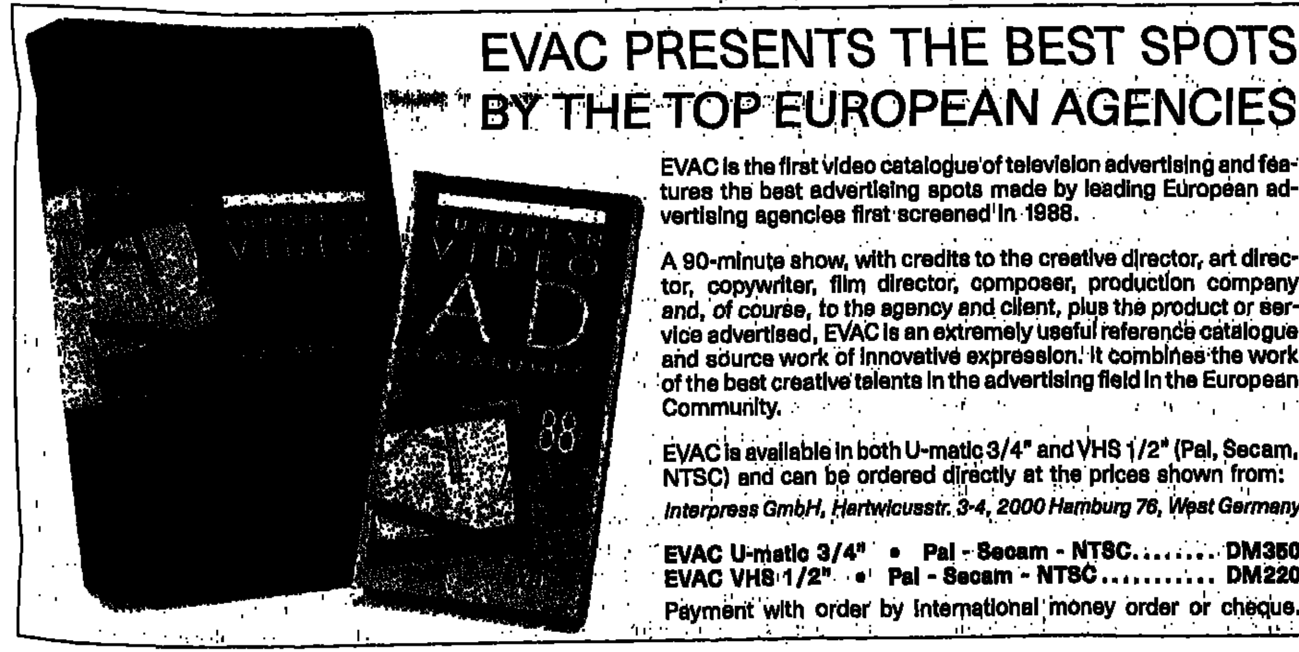
But Professor Benda, a Berlin Christian Democrat, can't take the decision for him. He will still have to decide one way or the other.

While the Uniroyal workers eagerly await the new shift scheme he has just announced, with unexpected clarity, that the proposal will probably be unacceptable because it will mean the end of Sunday as a day of rest.

This may not have been his last word on the subject, but it is a pointer, and one that will have been noted with keen interest in both Aachen and Herstal.

Helmut Breuer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 26 May 1989)



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■ BUSINESS

Changes in market structure as Germany becomes a nation of old people

These are the facts: there are fewer and fewer Germans in West Germany and more and more of them are old people.

Young couples are no longer enthusiastic about having children: the proportion of children in the population is declining all the time.

In 40 years' time there will be 40 million people in this country: today there are 60 million. More than a third of them will be over 60: at present they make up only 21 per cent of the population.

The number of people in the 21 to 40 age group will decline from the present 28 per cent to 21 per cent by the year 2030.

Company executives and managers are preparing for this. Major companies, such as Siemens, are launching support programmes for students so as to bind to them the ever smaller circle of the intelligentsia.

Bayer has mounted an advertising campaign to attract young people passing the *Abitur*, university entrance examination, in the 1990s.

Insurance companies are slowly withdrawing from long-term investments such as home-building. Schools and kindergartens are closing down. People who have concentrated on doing business with young people only are a thing of the past.

It is not so easy for some firms such as toy manufacturers Märklin to react to changes in society. They have had marketing problems earlier than other sectors.

The crisis caused Märklin to turn to electronically-controlled miniature railways and relay stations, which visibly excite the boy in the man.

Since the beginning in the slump in the birth-rate manufacturers of babies nappies have changed their range of goods.

They have been successful in discreetly including in their catalogues items for senior citizens for incontinence.

But more frequently a supplier concentrates on a particular age group or one of the sexes.

For instance in 1985 there were 14 million potential jeans purchasers in the Federal Republic. Within the space of four years this possible market has declined by one million.

The industry itself calculates that by the year 2010 there will only be a jeans market of about 10 million young people.

The same trend is to be expected for preparations for acne-sufferers, for instance, for chocolate, cola drinks, whisky and filter-tip cigarettes.

At the same time suppliers are concentrating more and more on preparations for cleaning false teeth, tonics, soothing teas or Eau de Cologne.

The best customers are getting wrinkles, and compared with the present there will be more and more of them.

Life expectancy is increasing. A baby girl born now will live to be 77 on average, a boy to be 71.

In international comparisons the Federal Republic is not at the top of the list. On average life expectancy increases by a month per year. In 1990 more than 2.4 million people over 80 will be living among us. By the year 2030 there will be 3.2 million of the over-80s.

But there are golden times in store for businesses which concentrate on serving the elderly.

Over the past 40 years economic and political stability have worked to the benefit of consumers. At present two-thirds of all disposable income is in the hands of people over 40, and this trend will become more marked as we approach the year 2000.

Using data prepared by the Bundsbank, the GfK Marktforschung GmbH in Nuremberg has calculated that the monthly disposable income of West Germans has quadrupled since 1965.

By the year 2000 private wealth will be five times greater than what it was in 1975, not least thanks to inheritance.

The purchasing power of the 60-year-olds is three times greater than that of 20-year-olds.

Much of this is available in the short-term in the form of shares, for instance. Time deposits or special savings arrangements give consumers and suppliers medium-term room for manoeuvre.

Up to the mid-1990s funds of between DM20bn to DM40bn will be paid out in life insurance.

The banks believe that as in the past only about 50 per cent of this money will be reinvested. There is no doubt that these funds will be bequeathed to impatient descendants, used to affluence.

Fund managers have learned from social workers that as the generations part from one another socially and in the places where they live, the attitudes of the elderly will change to a considerable extent.

The pre-war generation said: "Young people should have it better then we did." This attitude is replaced by a healthy egoism among people aged 40, 50 and 60.

More often than not the view is expressed by people just retired or those who have been in retirment some time: "My pension is my own."

They are not prepared to do without anything. They prefer to spend their money. If they do invest money then it is in the short-term.

The banks have reacted to this and offered what they call plus or bonus savings schemes. In addition they have extended credits on the basis of expectations from life insurance policies.

It is well known how these people use their money. People who are now 60 have learned to enjoy it, as have the younger ones.

Since many, but not all, have enough money to spend, their demands have increased.

Adult education over the past few decades has borne fruit. The elderly are confident and ready to criticise — this is true of fairly elderly citizens and this has had an influence on companies' marketing opportunities.

The idea of a tranquil, unassuming old-age for elderly people who are not so well off is losing ground all the time. Managers in consumer industries will have to learn this. Up to now they have had difficulty in coming to terms with this idea.

One reason might well be that market researchers seldom survey the elderly. Students are and were interviewed and tested in 80 per cent of all social surveys as representing everyone.

Researchers find young people all togther at one educational establishment easily. Students are also prepared to cooperate for very little money.

Working people, on the other hand, are more spread out, and they often do not have time or inclination for research questioning.

The organisation for retired people, the Grey Panthers, has had to give elderly people a foretaste of how discussions with lethargic politicians and officials can come off so that the general public discovers and learns to accept the elderly.

It seems to many rather eerie what executives in commerce and industry know about these customers, important for the future. One thing is certain that senior citizens do not want to be reminded in any way about their age, either in advertising or labelling.

Milupa, the baby foods organisation, had to learn this the expensive way when the company brought on the market diets for senior citizens, low in fats and hydrates.

The products met the needs of elderly consumers but they prefered taking baby food, almost identical in content, from the shelves.

They could pretend that they were buying the product for a grandchild and not for themselves, as members of a "peripheral group subject to natural ageing."

Then the tourist company DER had to withdraw from their travel brochures tours which were offered, accompanied by a doctor. This proved to be a complete flop.

There were not enough people interested in them. People did not want to be included among the infirm.

The company had much more success with tours under the heading, "Inexpensive educational tours for well-to-do elderly people with plenty of leisure time."

Products tailor-made for the needs of the elderly, without actually referring directly to age, almost sell themselves.

In an age when mobility is ever more important former Ford boss Daniel Goeudevert is still puzzled why the car industry has not introduced swivel-seats to make it easier for elderly people to get in and out of cars.

The industry has been expecting a slack period for two years because young first-buyers with a predilection for fast cars failed to appear.

Goeudevert, the philosopher in the motor industry, said: "Elderly people perhaps prefer data programmes which tell them at the press of a button what is worth seeing in the neighbourhood or good value boarding houses."

Advertising for discriminating senior citizens must emphasise objective advantages as with no other group.

In television spots or advertising illustrations a lively 60-year-old must appear having a chat with a bank investment adviser. At pensionable age the traditional, dubious images of a retired person get blurred. Clichés about the elderly such as illness are regarded as an insult.

Senior citizens accept their age and make great play that they have the advantage of experience over younger people.

Nevertheless most wish they were 15 years younger. They are flattered when they are told that they do no look their age.

Advertising experts confirm that the elderly feel active, curious about the world, eager for change. The senior citizens' world is lively, not grey.

The affluent among them are frank about cosmetics, they dress with youthful chic. Witt, Weiden, a subsidiary of the Otto mail-order house, has made money out of this.

The average size of an outfit for the 40-year-olds and above is still 44, but the tendency is for this to reduce, according to experts in the rag trade.

Elderly people not only want to look sporty they do something about it.

The Unilever margarine "Lätta" and the "Du Darfst" range of milk products have been developed for the 20 to 30 age group, but the over-60s have taken up these calorie-reduced products.

More and more often the elderly can be seen jogging along with young fitness fanatics.

Retired people have also turned up at body-building centres at reduced-price times, formerly introduced with students and housewives in mind.

Elderly people utilise to the full the advantages their age entitles them to. The Bundesbahn, German Railways, have done the right thing by introducing special passes for senior citizens.

Nevertheless prices are becoming of less importance in matters concerning enjoyment and health. What is important is quality, which it is supposed is offered by health food stores and fruit shops rather than conventional supermarkets.

At department store sales in summer and winter more and more frequently cheap goods go unsold.

What is preferred is reduced-priced trade-marked goods. Elderly people enjoy being regarded as connoisseurs. They know how to eat better than young people, for instance.

In the mid-1990s one in every five marks will be spent on eating out — which is a threat for the foodstores industry. Those who have plenty of wordly goods want to enjoy luxury to the full.

Old furniture, for instance, is replaced by the "classics" of interior design. And when the children have left home many begin thinking of building a new home — in another area where the weather is better.

The idea that elderly people are stationary has almost gone through the window. The opportunities this opened up has only slowly dawned on industry.

How else can it be explained then that West German exporting firms have not exploited the experience of former top people after they have gone into retirement.

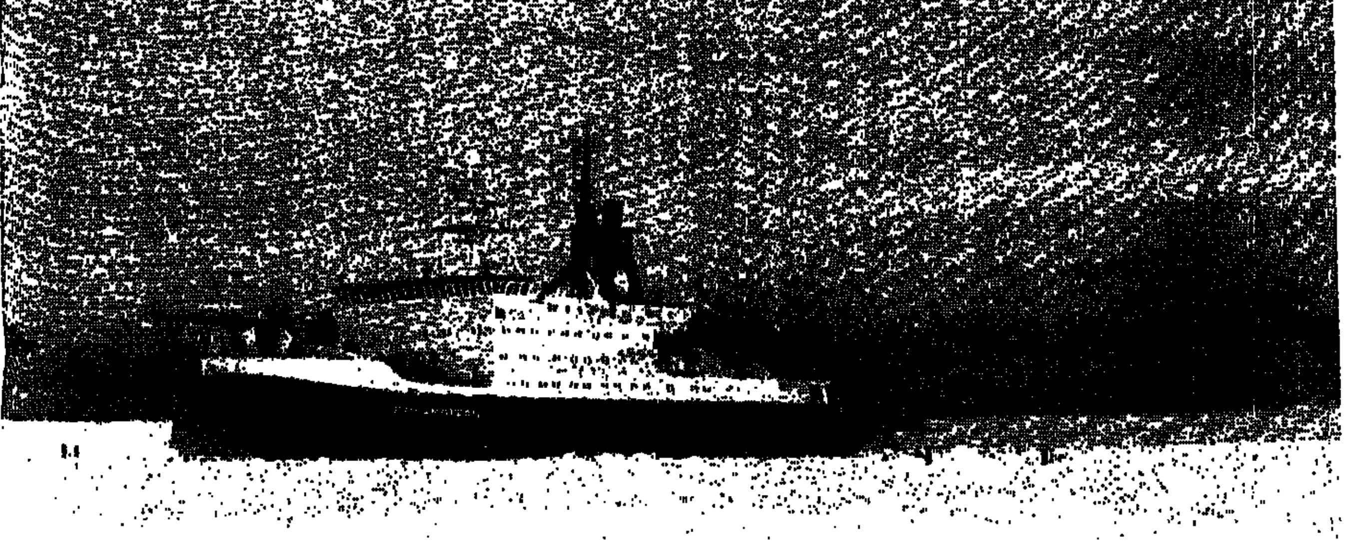
Many of these experienced, active elderly people offer their services abroad, voluntarily, through the Senior Citizens Expert Service.

During this year's Hanover Fair exhibitors were not particularly interested in them.

For this reason, many 65-year-olds, retired but still active, have sent out the information brochures of the Bonn-based Service. *Ralf-Günther Münchow*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 May 1989)

Hannoversche Allgemeine





The *Polarstern* is the best research vessel working the pack ice. It has proved invaluable in both the Arctic and the Antarctic. It is a twin-walled icebreaker that can work at temperatures as low as -50° C (-58° F). One of its decks is partly heated. The *Polarstern* was commissioned on 9 December 1982. It has a crew of 41 and room for 40 scientists and technicians. There are nine laboratories on board, two helicopters, a launch, the *Polarfuchs*, a 25-ton crane with a radius of up to 24 metres (78ft 9in) and a central computer. The ship is 118 metres (387ft) long, 25 metres (82ft) wide, has a maximum draught of 10.9 metres (35ft 9in), an unladen weight of 11,350 tons and a top speed of 16 knots. On 20 April 1989 the *Polarstern* set sail on another 10-week Arctic expedition with a view to determining the region's role in the origin of ice ages and as a climate regulator. Cooperation with Swedish and Soviet scientists was planned.

(Photo: AWI)

■ RESEARCH

Northward bound to the ice floes, to the pack ice and to the eternal solid ice

The temperature was 5° C (41° F) as we — a handful of tourists, Norwegian miners, scientists and journalists — landed at the small airfield in Longyearbyen, the capital of Spitzbergen.

The 25 research scientists, a fellow-reporter and I headed for the harbour, where the *Polarstern*, the ice-breaking research vessel of the Bremerhaven Alfred Wegener Polar and Ocean Research Institute, was at anchor.

As an old naval hand, I was immediately attracted to the bridge, which looked more like the control panel of a satellite ground station than a conventional ship's bridge, so chock full is it of the latest in computer and switchgear equipment.

The radio officer welcomed me on board with a drink and showed me what must be the most up-to-date ship's wireless equipment in the world.

We then made our way up to the crow's nest, perched on a tripod 30 metres (98ft) above the upper deck.

Here too the lookout has the technical back-up of radio and radar antennas, measuring equipment and satellite receivers.

The meteorological data received are converted by a computer into up-to-the-minute weather charts of the Arctic Ocean, enabling the captain to arrange deadlines and set courses so as to ensure the best possible observations in the prevailing weather conditions.

Reconnaissance at close range is handled by the ship's two helicopters, which guide the *Polarstern* by radar through the ice floes and the pack ice.

"With all that technology and all these safeguards," I note with regret, "where is the adventure?" The thought crosses my mind as I use the ship's heated swimming pool once we have set sail.

Suddenly there is heavy swell in the pool. Waves splash where before I could happily paddle. There is a rumbling sound outside, first at intervals, then ever faster.

Shortly afterward I go back on deck to find the sea dotted with ice floes. We have passed the ice-line. The *Polarstern* has reduced speed but the collisions shake her.

The floes soon form pack ice. The ship's spoon-shaped bow reaches out under the ice and gently breaks ice six feet thick, ice that gives way under the pressure of 16,000 tons of steel.

The *Polarstern* pitches as though she were in heavy seas. There are sounds like explosions when entire ice barriers give way. Fountains of water and ice shoot sky-high.

Sleep is out of the question. The ship shudders and jerks even though it is ploughing its way through a rigid surface.

On the following day the noise of ice breaking is the accompaniment to the first on-board palaver, as the scientists' conferences are self-deprecatingly called.

The research crew are international and inter-disciplinary, consisting of German biologists, Swedish nuclear physicists, Norwegian glaciologists, British and German oceanographers, Icelandic zoologists and Danish ecologists.

The two principal research sectors on this voyage are Archy, short for Arctic Chemistry and Hydrography, and Arby, short for Arctic Biology.

Professor Gotthilf Hempel of the Alfred Wegener Institute is heading the expedition.

Meteorologists on board the *Polarstern* hope to find out what part the Arctic plays as a climate factor. It is a constant source of low pressure troughs that put a damper on Northern European hopes of a long, hot summer.

The biologists are compiling data on living conditions in the eternal ice, in the intermediate zone between salt seawater and molten fresh water and on the range and extent of civilisation damage.

The geologists are investigating seabed deposits, compiling computerised seabed charts and trying to sound out the tectonics of the ocean bed.

The oceanographers have set their sights on the Fram Strait between northern Spitzbergen and north-east Greenland.

They suspect it of being the site of a submarine threshold where water flows between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic.

"The Arctic," Professor Hempel explains, "was long felt to be a closed system where the water had been unchanged for centuries. So the area north of the Fram Strait was a tempting tentative repository for radioactive waste."

Day by day the *Polarstern* heads further and further into the pack ice, reaching the point where pack ice gives way to permanent ice. Despite its gigantic diesel engines the ship occasionally gets stuck between floes several metres thick.

The glaciologists welcome the opportunity of drilling holes in the ice, while the biologists take samples to check them for traces of what interests them.

The helicopter mechanic stands guard with a rifle at the ready in case we are attacked by polar bears.

Fog creates problems. Where Arctic air and water masses collide with their Atlantic counterparts, cloud cover is year-round.

The damp congeals on the ship's ropes and superstructure, its antennas and struts. It is a phenomenon known in German as black frost.

The *Polarstern* is transformed into an ice-clad work of sculpture. The ship's decks resemble ice rinks.

It grows really dangerous when the sun penetrates the grey gloom. The picturesque icicles work loose and descend, like the proverbial blunt instrument beloved of whodunnit writers, gathering speed and weight.

We spend 10 days steering a slalom course alongside the pack ice border, heading north-west toward the pole. "I wonder," says captain Lothar Suhrmeyer, "whether we're going to make it."

We pass the northernmost point ever reached by a vessel in the the icebreaker's category, 82° 26' N, yet the *Polarstern* ploughs deeper into the Arctic icecap.

The ship's steel casing can withstand pressure of up to 900 tons per square metre.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the loudspeaker announces, "the *Polarstern* has today reached the northernmost point ever reached by a vessel in its category: 83° N and 10° W."

We are less than 400 nautical miles from the North Pole. A few rounds of beer are bought and drunk in the Zillertal, a bar in the crew's mess, in honour of this world record.

The scientists are out in force the next morning. They almost lose Rosi, their DM300,000 water sampler, when she has been lowered to a depth of 2,000 metres (6,562ft) and the hawser threatens to snap.

Surface ice has gnawed at the hawser and risky repairs are carried out, just about ensuring the probe's recovery.

The ship's central computer ingests a steady stream of data that is expected, after several years of evaluation, to provide a complete scientific picture of this peripheral zone of the Arctic Ocean.

Further south the zoologists have more to do. The further north we sailed, the fewer animals there were. Their number declined drastically for lack of food.

On our way back we encounter seals again, guillemots and gulls. The glaciologists even have an encounter with a polar bear, escaping by the skin of their teeth.

"How many of them are there still around?" I ask an Icelandic expert. "Overflying and marking them," he says, "we have counted about 1,200."

So there are still about 1,200. "Still" is a word that recurs in debate. Radioactive contamination from nuclear tests and nuclear fuel reprocessing plant has "still" not reached a critical level in the Arctic.

Atmospheric pollution is "still" within international limits. Water pollution due to waste disposal and hazardous substances is "still" below the usual danger level.

Whaling has "still" not completely ruined any chance whale stocks may have of regenerating.

The scientists on board the *Polarstern* aren't romantic world improvers. They carry out their analyses, compile their data and take their samples.

But inter-disciplinary collaboration demonstrates more clearly than individual probes how damage will accumulate unless politicians act soon.

Four weeks after leaving Spitzbergen we berth in Tromsö, Norway, where the scientists and I leave ship.

The expedition, financed by the Bonn Research and Technology Ministry has cost DM100,000 a day.

"It's money well spent," says Professor Hempel. "Only the *Polarstern* provides an opportunity of carrying out research of this kind north of 80° N.

"Life on board is conducive to inter-disciplinary work. Many results can be evaluated straight away. And scientists who are normally thousands of miles apart can compare notes." *Peer Schmidt-Walther*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 2 June 1989)

■ LITERATURE

Trying to close trapdoors at writers' meeting

The PEN Congress in Cologne was not a literary event, neither as regards the matters it dealt with nor as regards the way it was conducted, even though such a writer as Walter Jens spoke of the necessity of the German PEN Club returning to literature.

Politics in Cologne was not ignored: it made its appearance in the Congress's slogan, "The duty to remember."

This recalled primarily the anniversary of the outbreak of the war 50 years ago and then Basic Law with 40 years of sovereignty for the Federal Republic.

The writers at the Congress concentrated on the outbreak of the war on 1 September 1939. They linked this memory with the successful attempt to draw together the intellectual direction between then and now.

The readings given during the three-day Congress seemed to do this successfully before the audience, mainly made up of young people.

The German PEN Club invited authors from countries which were once this country's adversaries. Many of them, such as Stefan Heym, Hilde Domin or Stefan Hermlin, were hunted half way round the world by the Nazis. Others, such as Andrzej Szcipiorski survived concentration camps and Stalin's terror campaign.

The centre of attraction of the Congress were two evening meetings. Writers read their contributions about other writers, who conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion during the war years.

Walter Jens spoke about Anna Seghers, the Catholic Jewess from Mainz, who went into exile in Mexico and after the war was the first president of the East German Writers' Association.

Her two most famous novels were *The Seventh Cross*, which anticipated the crimes committed in Buchenwald and Treblinka, and *Transit*, reflecting the fate of refugees in Marseilles in 1940.

Then the lyric poet Günter Kuhnert spoke about the Italian writer Primo Levi, who survived Ausschwitz and committed suicide in 1961 — this was again an attempt to throw light on the biography of a writer suffering from the tribulations of the times.

Finally Siegfried Lenz spoke about the Polish writer Jerzy Andrzejewski, the author of *Ashes and Diamonds*, a writer Lenz portrayed as a confessor.

It goes without saying that this PEN Congress in Cologne would have been unthinkable without homage being paid to Heinrich Böll, who was the first post-war German to be president of International PEN.

Böll had repeatedly warned writers at the time to give intensive attention to the shady side of the German past.

The East German writer Günter de Breuyn gave an unadorned lecture on Nobel Prize-Winner Böll, a simple portrait in the tone of a pupil speaking of his master.

Other lectures and discussions took place under the headings "In my time, in your place" and "The writer and power" at this PEN Congress.

Stefan Heym read his modified fairytale from *Des Kaisers neue Kleider*, a parable about truth and the art of suppression practised by the authorities.

Stefan Hermlin, for a long time the grey eminence of East German literature, sat in the audience listening without showing any reactions to this lecture.

The fact that two prominent East German writers attended the PEN Congress in Cologne shows that there is a growing readiness to get involved together with West Germans in their common past.

This PEN Congress was certainly not a great literary event. For some time now such events have not included literary discussion, no disputes about language and its efficacy.

There was a substantial concentration on politics in Cologne; resolutions were written down dealing with right-wing extremism and the persecution of dissidents.

There was an insistance on elections, of course. Walter Jens, who has headed PEN in the interim since the death of Martin-Gregory Dellin, gave up his office.

His position was taken over by the novelist and essayist Carl Amery, also politically-minded, pugnacious but also a man of humour, a moralist with intellectual links to Böll.

He was the only candidate and 90 per cent of the votes were in his favour. It is hard to believe that under Amery's leadership the PEN Club will return to literature. As Walter Jens expressed it, power is no longer about titbits which the Sun King, Louis XIV, tossed from the table to his court poet Molière.



Intellectual links with Böll ... Carl Amery. (Photo: Brigitte Friedrich)

There is also no Charles de Gaulle in sight, who said of his communist Sartre: "One does not arrest Voltaire."

The events in the relationships between writer and political power are more banal and more wretched than they ever were.

There are more than 400 imprisoned writers in the world, incarcerated on political grounds because they represented opinions which did not please those in power. The PEN Club is concerned about these writers as is the German section.

It was a little embarrassing in Cologne when local writers spoke about resistence against oppression and the suppression of opinions. Many have not yet shed the attitudes of the fiery "J'accuse."

One delegate ironically said that many in Cologne were out of step. It is only to be hoped that no more trapdoors open up for PEN authors.

There were closer contacts with IG Medien, the media trades union, in Cologne. PEN should withdraw in good time from this embrace.

Wolf Scheller

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22 May 1989)

The tobacco heir and the wordsmith from Bargfeld

Arno Schmidt's small timber house and his old caravan still stand as they did when he lived, between larches and juniper bushes.

The house in Bargfeld is close to the forest, just south-east of Celle, through which he and his wife Alice rode on a tandem.

Arno Schmidt, the wordsmith from Bargfeld, died ten years ago and his wife followed him in 1983. But his study seems as if he has just nipped out for a while with his binoculars. The village cats drink their milk from a large plate as if their mistress was still looking after them.

The people who are ensuring that life goes on in the Schmidt home live in an imposing bungalow put up nearby.

There is a brass plate with the words "Arno Schmidt Foundation." The founder is Jan Philipp Reemtsma, 36, who inherited a tobacco empire which had a turnover of DM7.5bn in 1980.

Instead of brooding over balance sheets or dashing about the district in an Alfa Romeo he has devoted himself to literature.

He sold his share in his father's cigarette factory to the Herz family in Hamburg for DM300m, owners of the Tchibo coffee organisation. He invested the money and, with the interest earned, supports art, culture and social projects such as caring for prostitutes.

One day in June 1977 he went to Bargfeld to visit Arno Schmidt. He met the writer on a walk.

After Schmidt had replied to Reemtsma's greeting with some reserve he heard what he had dreamed of hearing all his life. The young millionaire said: "I want to become your patron."

After Arno Schmidt, well-known but not very well-off, had thoroughly considered the matter, he consented.

Reemtsma presented him with DM350,000, a sum which corresponded exactly to the Nobel Prize award, and which released Arno Schmidt, then 63, from having to earn his living from translations and writing essays for radio.

He was able to devote himself entirely to his work on engineer and aviation pioneer Otto Lilienthal (1848-1896).

Jan Philipp Reemtsma did not offer his patronage with conditions. Schmidt once said to his wife Alice about his patron: "He is the most modest and most constant of my readers."

He knew what he was talking about. He had had a following of admirers for a long time chasing at his heels.

Reemtsma recalled: "They stood behind the fence and called out 'Arno, Arno,' and reporters lay on the grass and tried to photograph him when he went for his morning walk."

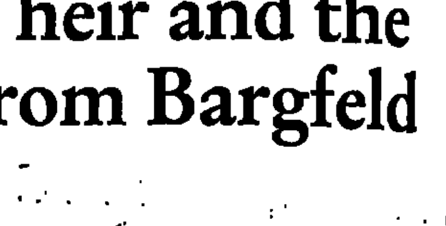
Just like his idol, Arno Schmidt, Jan Reemtsma strictly forbids photographs of himself.

In order to work undisturbed Schmidt retired more and more away from the public view. His book about Lilienthal was still not finished.

Even when he met his patron Schmidt was seriously ill. He died on 3 June 1979 after a stroke.

Three months later the urn with his remains was buried in his garden.

Reemstma said: "I told the local authorities that there were some mad people among Arno Schmidt's admirers, who could steal the urn from the cemetery as a relic — in that year Charlie Chaplin's admirers had made off with his body. I said that I would be responsible for the Schmidt plot."





Stayed out of public gaze ... Arno Schmidt. (Photo: Thomas Deutschmann)

Reemtsma helped the widow through these difficult times. Alice is now buried under the same stone that covers Arno Schmidt.

A year before her death she had sued the S. Fischer publishing house in Munich for incorrect accounting, for not having published separate editions and for having reprinted paperbacks although the licence to do so had expired.

A battle about inheritance flared up. The Arno Schmidt Foundation was set up on 26 November 1981 with a basic capital of DM5m, and it intervened in this dispute to see that the right thing was done by the publishing house to its deceased author.

The Foundation fought one court case after another after the widow's death, until the Supreme Court in Karlsruhe rejected the last Schmidt inheritance appeal in 1987. The Fischer publishing house had finally won the case.

It was agreed that separate editions should appear under the Fischer imprint and that the Arno Schmidt Foundation should bring out a collected works.

In the meantime a cheap edition of his narrative works has sold 20,000 copies and is now out of print, and the first volume of the collected works has been delivered.

Jan Philipp Reemstma does not look after the business side of the Foundation himself. He has now established in Hamburg an Institute for Social Research and only visits Bargfeld from time to time.

Bernd Rauschenbach is looking after the collected edition, gives aid to Schmidt researchers, organises readings and exhibitions and looks after the house.

The cats are fed by Erika Knop. She was a good neighbour to Alice and Arno Schmidt for 20 years and now helps the Foundation's secretary to guide visitors through the Schmidt home. There are many visitors who make their way to Bargfeld.

The local tourist office at Eschede has included the name of the famous writer in its tourist advertising.

"A genius of language, often unrecognised, has recently taken over the rank held by our Hermann Löns," the advertising says.

The truth is that visitors to the area no longer think of Löns but of Schmidt. They do not sing Löns' "Auf der Lüneburger Heide," but ponder on Schmidt's *Zettels Traum*.

Heinrich Thies

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 June 1989)

■ THE ARTS

Bach and ballet — structural and interlocking

Choreographers all over the world have shown a preference for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Dancers enjoy being animated into movement by his baroque compositions; his musical clarity fits in well with abstract dance.

Since 1973 John Neumeier has been the chef de ballet in Hamburg and he has been inspired several times by Bach's music.

The structural interlocking between the musical and the choreographic architecture is not enough for him, however.

His ballet to Bach's *St Matthew Passion* transformed the work into a tale of suffering, venturing in this way to the very core of Christian belief and in his work returning to the Biblical tradition in his visual representationalism.

Neumeier has again turned to Bach for a full-length ballet. His *Magnificat* was premièred at the Avignon Festival in 1987.

Now, two years later, this ballet can be seen in North Germany — it was presented in Hamburg's St Michael's Church, opening the Hamburg Ballet Festival.

Neumeier's treatment this time is very different from that he applied to the Passion. He has not limited himself to the 12 parts of Bach's setting of the *Magnificat*, which can be described as entertaining in the best possible sense.

He has extended the music with two orchestral suites and three excerpts from Bach's *B Minor Mass* as an epilogue.

Neumeier himself said that his *Magnificat* "was not a theological study" but "a sequence of pure dances, the sequences reflecting simple and clear feelings."

But this idea, naturally dear to dancers, is not in tune with the reality of the work. There was, for instance, a touch of theology in the titles which Neumeier gave to each of the sequences.

What could by called Old Testament "Prophecies" followed "Paradise Lost," and in the second half of the ballet, in the New Testament part as it were, the *Magnificat* was framed, as a hymn of praise, by an "Annunciation," and a "Dona nobis pacem," which ends every church service, traditionally as a prayer of peace. Neumeier only avoided one thing. In the central hymn of praise he did not impose on his audience abstract theology. He allows the Virgin Mary and her friend, Elizabeth to react like you or me; he allows the audience to participate in the joy of birth and equally in the premonition of the later Passion. Mary hesitates to pick up Christ's robe, lying on the stage, and that is one of the most moving moments in this two-hour-long ballet. Mary's encounter with the Angel, earlier in the ballet, was also touching. In view of such truthful, moving scenes it is hard to understand why this ballet includes hackneyed futilities such as "Paradise Lost" and the beginning of the "Annunciation," after the interval, presented before the altar with billowing mists.

The hackneyed arrangement was not improved when after the mists the "Airs" from Bach's *D Major Suite*, re-arranged, were exaggerated by billowing sound from the organ.

Neumeier's *Magnificat* had insipid, flat moments in the first part. This tripped and clopped along vehmently over the temporary stage as if the wickedly twee musical accompaniment of the St Michael Orchestra, directed by Günter Jena, needed to get a move on.

Günter Jena had better control over the music later with soloists, choir and orchestra, and this was the most concentrated section from the choreographic point of view.

Here the compositional terseness, the precise musical interpretation and the choreography, presented by superb dancing, splendidly complemented each other.

John Neumeier was here helped by his well-disciplined ensemble, particularly the striking soloists Gigi Hyatt as Mary, Mette Bodtcher as Elizabeth and Jean Laban as the Angel of the Annunciation.

The precise elevations, leaps with apparent suspension in air, of the ensemble with its impressions of loftiness were wonderful in the "Gloria" finale of the *Magnificat*.

Ludolf Baucke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 June 1989)

A touch of theology, despite contrary claims, in *Magnificat*. (Photo: Peter Peitsch)



Women's revenge in nocturnal hunts, in *Giselle and the Wills*. (Photo: dpa)

The altarpiece alongside the silly

The Laokoon Group was established 10 years ago. Rosamund Gilmore, who comes from Britain, and the Bavarian composer Franz Hummel work in Riedenburg, north-east of Ingolstadt, near Munich, the Bavarian state capital which is also the source of subsidies.

Gradually they have made a name for themselves and carved out a place for themselves in dance theatre in this country, a place very much in the front rank due to Rosamund Gilmore's distinctive choreographic style.

At Hamburg's Theater der Welt festival a retrospective is being devoted to her work.

She describes it as "more sculptural than movement." She does not seek a definite theatrical design. She does not want to invent but discover. She wants to react to what she sees with reflection and analysis.

Her tenth production is given over to this goal. This time she has taken up a French national myth, the story of Jeanne d'Arc, a work put on in Ingolstadt.

Frau Gilmore must have known that in the course of the centuries this theme had become sancrosanct. Any number of books and treatments of it have disfigured it, and that a falsification of the material would only get by with difficulty, if at all. She has picked out this difficulty as the central theme. She does not show the "true" Joan, but a shattered picture-puzzle arranged around this character, which curiously has the effect of incompleteness. First an attempt is made to consider the historical "Jeanne d'Arc" from all sides. It is the turn of Saint Catherine to speak, one of Joan's visions. In a silver-shining nun's habit she comperes the action, wittily

Continued on page 15

No daughter, no duke and no grape harvest

Marcia Haydée, director of the Stuttgart Ballet, has to all intents and purposes created a new ballet in her reworking of the *Giselle* theme.

Her *Giselle and the Wilis* to the well-known music by Adolphe Adam opened this year's Baden-Württemberg Festival in the Ludwigsburg Theatre.

After a prologue, in which Hilarion mourns Giselle's death, the first act in the new production does not take place in a village on the Rhine during the grape harvest, but on an island "where people have congregated who want to flee from the compulsions of social life in the city."

Giselle is not a farmer's daughter, but a maiden living on the island, who is famous for the wedding veils which she makes.

Albrecht is not a duke but a young painter from a good family, who from time to time flees from the social compulsions of city life to spend some of his leisure time on the island and get closer to Giselle.

Finally Hilarion is not a gamekeeper but the founder of a colony of artists on the island, who some time previously cast his eye on Giselle and discovered that she was on intimate terms with Albrecht.

In the prologue and second act green and brown cords hanging down, close to one another, represent the fairytale forest. In the first act there is the semi-circle of a six-tiered amphitheatre before a bright rounded horizon.

The island visitors arrive in small boats. Before that there is a lively market day scene.

The stage is festooned with three strips of cotton. A circus director presents his troup of clowns, who perform their little tricks.

The powerul and impressive dancer Richard Cragan as Hilarion, a real man, enters to dominate the scene.

Tamas Dietrich as Albrecht is devoted to his painting and concerns himself as a senstive cavalier about Giselle.

Birgit Keil as Giselle is from the very outset a fragile maiden, living in a trance rather than in real life, an insubstantional being from another world different from that world of lively hustle and bustle into which refined society from the city intrudes.

The second act, which takes place in a clearing in the middle of the forest, where there is a cemetery, is dominated

Bremer Nachrichten

by the Wilis, the spirits of maidens who die before their intended marriages.

They are not dressed in white but in pale-coloured costumes. They are "the ghostly spirits of maids and women who in life have been betrayed by men, and who seek revenge on them in nocturnal hunts."

Melinda Witham leads them as their majestic queen. Marcia Haydée has extended the romantic classic ballet *Giselle* carefully with distorting the meaning in any way. She has developed every relationship in the ballet with understanding, giving it credibility and with an element of social criticism.

She has deployed not just an academic dance style but has integrated into it elements of the pantomime of dance drama.

Dieter Schnabel

(Bremer Nachrichten, 5 June 1989)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Magnets used to decalcify water

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Conventional decalcification of domestic water pipes is a problem, say supporters of a new technique that uses environment-friendly magnets to unblock those pipes.

The usual procedure is to add a pinch of salt to the water, which does the trick, but one pinch leads to another — and 220,000 salt-based decalcifiers use an annual 42,000 tons of sodium chloride, or table salt.

The argument is a no-holds-barred dispute, up to and including litigation. The courts are not to be envied. Deciding which system is better is easier said than done.

Calcium in tap water is definitely a problem. In areas with very hard water washing machines and dishwashers can seize up. So can hot-water pipes and immersion heaters.

That costs electric power and can be even more expensive if blocked pipes need replacing.

A pinch of salt keeps this sclerosis at bay, but the annual 42,000 tons goes down the drain and into the nearest river.

So the Environmental Protection Agency (UBA), Berlin, advises against using salt, which can find its way into the body, encouraging high blood pressure.

The alternative is a new system using magnets past which the water flows.

It uses no energy. The magnets are permanent. But house-owners who are keen to control pollution face the problem that no-one yet knows how the magnets work.

Dieter Kiwus does not feel this is a problem. "In practice we see the system working daily," he says. He and partner Klaus Meier sell the new system in the Nuremberg area.

They have sold it to a wide and impressive range of customers. They include Nuremberg city council, the Bundesbahn and leading construction companies.

An attempt to explain how it works has been made by Klaus J. Kronenberg, a physics professor at the University of California, Pomona. He took drops of water as samples, some that had passed magnets, others that hadn't. He let the drops of water evaporate and measured the lime or calcium stain they left behind. In water that had run past magnets up to 95 per cent of the calcium was loose and didn't form a hard crust. Dr Kronenberg concluded that this loose calcium would not have blocked water pipes.

It would either have flown away with the water or left a thin layer that could easily be wiped off. The magnets may activate impurities in the water. The calcium then attaches itself to these impurities rather than lining the pipes.

Manufacturers and retailers of salt-based systems unsurprisingly disagree. They have launched an advertising campaign claiming that decalcification by magnetism is utterly ineffective.

They were taken to court and lost. They are no longer allowed to make a number of claims.

The environment-friendly alternative is certainly the less expensive. A magnet-based system costs between DM1,500 and DM2,500 for a terraced house. Running costs are nil.

Chemical systems are not only more expensive to install; they also need an annual refill costing between DM200 and DM300.

One manufacturer, writing in a trade journal, has frankly admitted that these refills are as regular and safe a source of income as a pension for the fitter.

Salt-based systems predominate. About 18,000 new ones a year are installed, whereas the two magnet-based system manufacturers have so far sold only 15,000 systems between them.

They have sold most to commercial and industrial users, but are now reaching domestic, private customers.

This need not be the case for ever. Dieter Kiwus and Klaus Meier have sold 700 systems in the Nuremberg area alone in just over a year.

Dieter Schwab

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 24 May 1989)



Tibean sucking Flensburg's rotting sludge. (Photo: Petersen Schiffstechnik)

A harbour gets some watery life breathed back into *it*

Flensburg Harbour has been given an artificial lung transplant, biological life in the bay having come to a standstill at depths of below seven metres (23ft).

The artificial lung is a device known as Tibean, short for *Tiefenbelüftungsanlage*, or deep-sea respiration device.

It is the first attempt of its kind to resuscitate an entire seabed that at present is lined with nothing but rotting sludge.

As dead as the Dodo was the verdict on the water in Flensburg Bay by Professor Dieter Jaeger of Hamburg University.

He analysed the water and said: "Below seven metres there is no oxygen and the water has an uppalling smell of rotten eggs due to toxic hydrogen sulphide."

Tibean, the artificial lung, is a metal cylinder 13 metres (42ft 6in) long that is to saturate the water with oxygen for a six-month trial period.

The cylinder will float in the harbour like a buoy, almost touching the bed. It will pump water from the bed, aerating 58,000 cubic metres of water a day with 700 kilograms of oxygen.

For Flensburg Bay it is a matter of life or death. The water is so fertiliser- and phosphate-enriched that algae are proliferating.

Only a fortnight ago poisonous algae, Dinoflagellata, flourished, klling marine life by the myriad.

Once they die the algae sink to the seabed where they are decomposed by bacteria, their phosphate intake being converted into insoluble minerals.

If there are enough algae in the water, its entire oxygen is exhausted, which marks the beginning of a lethal cycle.

The bacteria die, the algae litter the seabed as sludge, producing methane and hydrogen sulphide.

The phosphates are no longer broken down and return to the surface as fresh nutrient for live algae. This vicious circle can only be brought to a halt by a fresh supply of oxygen.

Professor Jaeger, who is in scientific charge of the project, is convinced that life will return in a fortnight, first worms, then mussels.

Says Fred Petersen, who devised Tibean: "Sad to say, we can only eliminate the symptoms, not the cause, which is the influx of phosphates into the seawater."

Tibean's six-month stint in Flensburg harbour is costing DM1m. If the pilot project is a success Schleswig-Holstein may decide to give the go-ahead for another five such projects.

Jaeger and Petersen are optimistic. "Tibean," they say, "has already proved its worth in several inland, fresh-water lakes.

"In comparison with the damage done by dead, biologically lifeless water Tibean is a bargain. Think of the tourist trade, for instance."

The device is unsuitable for use off Lübeck, unfortunately, where the bay has too wide an outlet to the Baltic. The aerated water would be a mere drop in the sick sea.

Heiko Roloff

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 5 June 1989)

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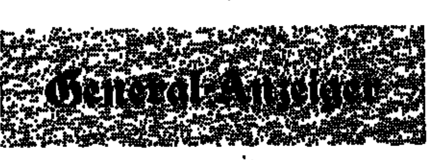


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■ MEDICINE

Lack of knowledge about male fertility hinders work on male contraceptive



The male reproduction function was long paid little attention by the medical profession. Andrology, the male counterpart of gynaecology, led a shadowy, unreal existence as an appendage of dermatology.

Urologists and specialists in internal medicine paid male fertility scant attention, says Eberhard Nieschlag, while gynaecologists saw the man solely as a sperm donor.

Professor Nieschlag is head of the Max Planck Society's clinical research group on reproductive medicine in Münster, Westphalia.

It was set up in 1980 as a research unit at Münster University Hospital's maternity clinic.

It has done pioneering work as the first inter-disciplinary research facility dealing with human reproduction in general and male reproduction in particular.

It has been so successful as a model of clinically oriented basic research that the unit has now been granted university department status.

It has even earned an international reputation. We have been designated by the World Health Organisation as a "collaboration centre on research into human reproduction," Professor Nieschlag says.

In this capacity the group collaborates in many ways with the WHO, but particularly in matters relating to birth control and infertility. Infertility can be a problem. It is one in parts of Africa, for instance, where venereal diseases go largely untreated. Many couples are socially ostracised on account of the resulting infertility.

Reproductive medicine seeks in equal measure to promote fertility and help childless parents and to promote contraception as a means of preventing the birth of unwanted children.

Both objectives require the closest possible insight into the natural prerequisites of fertility in both women and men.

Yet the fertile man is still largely an unknown quantity where scientific research is concerned.

He has so far been given short shrift in every respect, and especially in respect of contraception. That is why the Münster research group aimed from the outset to develop a male "contraceptive pill."

By the turn of the century the world's population will be at least 6,000 million, more and more of whom will live in progressively worse conditions.

The countriest first and hardest hit will be in the Third World, where population growth is unabated. But it is in the industrialised world's interest too to develop birth control methods that can be placed at poorer countries' disposal.

Individual suffering must also be eased. Infant mortality is demonstrably lower when couples wait longer between having children.

Besides, there are good reasons to devise new approaches to fertility control in Germany too. Why, for one, must women bear the brunt of contraception by means of hormone medication?

Besides, conventional methods of contraception simply aren't good enough. Otherwise so many abortions wouldn't be necessary.

"Ethical responsibility toward unborn life," Professor Nieschlag says, "requires us to refrain from research on human embryos, even if they are one- or two-cell embryos that have just been fertilised.

"But what about the 240,000 legal abortions that are carried out annually in the Federal Republic of Germany?"

At present male contraception consists of a choice between a condom or a vasectomy. Condoms are unreliable, a vasectomy is irreversible.

Otherwise there are a number of more or less promising approaches to male fertility control, all — especially immunological and physical techniques — still in their early stages.

Making men or women immune to semen is a remote prospect and may not even be possible. Ultrasonic bombardment to kill sperm off seems impracticable as yet too.

Great store was set until recently by pharmacological methods, such as a course of Gossypol, a Chinese "wonder drug" extracted from cotton seed.

Gossypol was indeed found to inhibit men's semen output, but it does too good a job of it; they remain infertile.

Much the same applies to Tripterygium wilfordii, another Chinese drug traditionally used to treat asthma and skin complaints.

It has been found to make men infertile, but it is also suspected of being a carcinogen, i.e. of causing cancer.

Unreliable

So the WHO's *tour d'horizon* of traditional medicine has so far failed to unearth a natural extract suitable for use as a male contraceptive, a substance extracted from the radish having proved equally unreliable.

Hormone treatment is the only really promising prospect of male fertility control: a male contraceptive pill that upsets the hormone cycle and stops semen from maturing.

This cycle is supervised by the hypothalamus, a part of the brain. It uses hormones to control the hypophysis, or pituitary gland, which releases gonadotropic hormones.

These hormones stimulate the production of both sperm and the male sex hormone testosterone in the testicles. Testosterone affects the hypothalamus, completing the cycle, as it were.

In the male it is not enough to administer a testosterone dose large enough to make the hypothalamus call a halt to the output of gonadotropic hormones.

Testosterone alone has been shown to be capable of ensuring that semen matures and thereby maintaining male fertility.

Testosterone can't be dropped entirely. It performs a whole range of non-reproductive functions associated with muscle, blood and bone metabolism, beard and hair growth, libido, potency and other, mental features that are "typically male" in the widest sense of the term.

The aim must thus be to call a halt to the maturing of semen and the production of testosterone in the testicles.

This is a quandary that research scientists have so far failed to solve. Professor Nieschlag and his associates made crucial headway six years ago in identifying a substance that does both.

It is 19-Nortestosterone, a so-called steroid that is closely related to testosterone.

It is nothing new, having been used clinically for 25 years, mainly to combat anaemia.

It is even more widely used in anabolic steroids, the prohibited drugs taken by athletes and body-builders.

The fact that it made users infertile long went unnoticed. It was discovered from tests on athletes who took it and volunteered to undergo medical trials.

19-Nortestosterone was found to be most effective at stopping sperm from maturing and halting the body's production of testosterone. Yet otherwise it fully performs the functions of the male sex hormone.

What is more, 19-Nortestosterone has no side-effects worth mentioning. And sperm production is fully resumed as soon as users stop taking it.

These promising findings were recently borne out by tests carried out on 41 body-builders.

"The test persons," Professor Nieschlag says, "had taken heavy doses of 19-Nortestosterone and other anabolic steroids.

"Some took 40 times the dose administered at hospital, yet few if any side-effects came to light."

Once they stopped taking steroids, all except one started producing sperm again.

Slight misgivings still exist, given that 19-Nortestosterone impedes but does not always suppress semen maturation.

Besides, it is administered in the form of an injection. Taken orally, it would be filtered out of the system by the liver.

Scientists are confident they can solve both difficulties.

A whole range of substances are on trial in Münster as possibly interrupting the hormone cycle linking the hypothalamus, the hypophysis and the pituitary gland.

Research is partly aimed at treating tumours which are affected by hormones, such as cancer of the prostate gland.

Research is also in progress on measuring and evaluating how well sperm function. What, for that matter, happens when a sperm makes contact with the ovum?

Test-tube fertilisation has provided fresh opportunities of studying this particular process.

Helping childless couples is another aspect of the group's research work. In the Federal Republic of Germany one couple in ten would like children but can't have them. In three cases out of ten the man is infertile.

Walter Frese

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 3 June 1989)

Meteorological stations all over the world

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supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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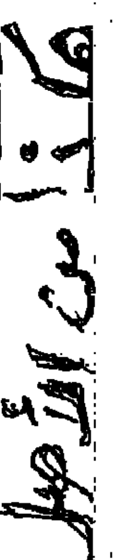
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■ HORIZONS

Centre tries to cut hotline to the dead

A young mother was unable to get over the death of her four-year-old daughter who had been run over by a car outside the kindergarten. She found comfort in a spiritist circle which recorded contact with dead people using a cassette recorder.

After several attempts, she finally heard her daughter's voice emerge from the noise. She was fine there on the other side, the girl assured the mother. The mother should not worry about her.

But as the messages became more and more bizarre, the woman began to have doubts: perhaps it wasn't good constantly to disturb the dead. She went to the telephone and dialled a number in Freiburg.

Another case: a teacher only wanted to know what his pupils did at their secret meetings in the evening. He asked for permission to take part and he put them to the test: they had lightly to touch a glass placed on a board containing letters of the alphabet and seek the Christian name of his grandfather.

No problem: the spirit even knew his nickname. There was no question of it being a fraud. The next day the astounded teacher went to the telephone.

Another case: a 17-year-old gymnasium pupil saw it as a bit of a harmless joke. Sometimes, together with classmates, he would predict the marks for the next day's mathematics; or he would improve his chances with a girl he fancied. But then he couldn't get rid of the spirit he had called up: every door that slammed, every book that suddenly fell to the floor was a sign from the other side. At night, he lay sleepless in bed and crawled like a small child full of fear to his parents in their bed. One day, it became too much for his mother. She went to the telephone.

In each of these cases, the target telephone number of a parapsychology advice centre in Freiburg run by Dr. rer. nat. Dr. phil. (doctor of science, doctor of philosophy) Walter von Loucadou, 43, a physicist and psychologist. The centre, established at the beginning of the year, is believed to be the first of its type in the country.

It was established on the initiative of about 30 scientists and doctors. Loucadou's pay, at the moment guaranteed only for a year, comes mostly (80 per cent) from the federal Labour Office in Nuremberg.

He was once assistant professor of peripheral psychology at Freiburg University and guest professor at the universities of Utrecht, in Holland, and Princeton, in the United States. He sees his new job as a social service. He wants to counter the practice of occult by providing explanations and information.

He doesn't regard the church advice centres as competition ("Not everyone wants to go to them") so much as "self-styled experts" who, he says, are making capital out of the belief in spirits. He says that many people who are troubled by supernatural experiences "fall into the trap of going to these charlatans — and completely uncritically."

The fact was that "our society is just not in a position to handle this phenomenon."

But that doesn't mean to say that



Supernatural? Bunkum, says Walter Loucadou. (Photo: Müller)

there is a shortage of interest. Since old spiritist practises have come into fashion, the Freiburg University peripheral psychology department has been handling up to 3,000 inquiries a year.

The head of the department, Professor Johannes Mischo, even talks about an "an epidemic spread of the drug of the occult." He has empirical reasons for saying that. A survey of 520 religious teachers revealed that almost 85 per cent had dealt with questions of the occult. Most of the questions were because the children had pressed them.

There are 900 psychological advice centres in the country. About half have had to deal with people who were troubled by extra-sensory experiences. There was a tendency that alarmed him: every third of these cases showed psychological oddities. This showed, said the professor, that there was an urgent need for advice.

Von Loucadou can only confirm this. In the first five months of operation, the centre handled about 1,000 inquiries. His telephone rings constantly. Sometimes he sits at his typewriter answering letters until three in the morning.

It is not his aim to talk people out of their belief or to impart a new philosophy of life: "Nothing is as stable as what people believe."

Using everyday language, he simply offers scientific explanations for the apparently inexplicable. He says the experiences have nothing to do with anything extra-sensory or supernatural. He believes most phenomenon can be explained in physical or psychological terms.

Ghosts and spirits he regards as nonsense. Even the moving glass, which is the most common way people are introduced to the occult, was explicable. It looked to the participants as if the glass moved by itself. The reality was that highly complicated factors involving psychomotor-automotism were at work. They were triggered by a separated part of the personality.

In this way, messages from the unconscious were drawn out and attributed to spirits or demons. Such people, fulfilled in their search for the supernatural, were only too keen to describe their experiences as spiritist.

Young people were clearly less prone. "Most are reasonable in this and don't take it so seriously," said Dr von Loucadou. Problems were more likely with adults among whom he perceived "a massive hostility towards science."

Women between the ages of 30 and 40 were a typically prone group. First, they visibly withdrew from reality; then they heard sounds; in the end they felt themselves ensnared. Mostly schizoph-

Continued on page 15

The inexplicable case of the jogger who never returned

Harald S. only wanted to go jogging. At least that is what he told friends over the telephone.

That was almost 9 pm one Thursday evening nearly two years ago, in July 1987. The teacher, then aged 37, has not been seen since. Police have been unable to uncover even the slightest clue. Harald S. is simply listed as "missing."

He is one of an average of 1,300 people who disappear every year in the city of Munich and its environs. Most are discovered a few days later or turn up sometime during the year, but not all. In the first three months of this year alone, 250 have disappeared compared with 240 for the same period last year. Of this 250, 26 are still missing.

Josef Schleindlsperger is the head of the missing persons bureau at police headquarters in Munich. He says that in 1988, 1,352 people were registered as missing and the police have been unable to solve only eight cases.

A few were found dead — suicide victims. But every year there are an average of three who cannot be found. In contrast to Harald S., who left no clue about why he went, most do have a reason: there are, says Inspector Schleindlsperger, for example those who have committed crimes and don't want to be found.

But most cases aren't that hard to crack. "Some men just vanish for a while because their wives drive them mad." He related the case of a pensioner whose wife reported him as missing and who turned up 14 days later as if nothing had happened: "He had gone to the Rhineland with 4,000 marks in his pocket."

Two thirds of missing people are older and no longer working. Last year there were 813 missing adults — 512 men and 301 women. Inspector Schleindlsperger: "Many older people say nothing to relatives when they are admitted to hospital."

The next biggest category are young people between the ages of 14 and 18. Last year, 281 girls and 167 boys in this age group disappeared. Many of them just go roaming about, he says. There are also many missing people who are repeat cases. "I have known people to go missing up to 10 times." They are youths who



have left homes in search of adventure in the wide world. It usually takes just two or three days before they are discovered. Often, they hide out with friends.

There were also 91 children under 14 who last year went missing. Inspector Schleindlsperger: "Many don't want to go home sometimes if they play and forget how late it is and think they'll get into trouble." Last year's 91, comprising 58 boys and 33 girls, were either found or turned up of their own accord.

There was the example of the 12-year-old boy who did not return home from school. Then a fellow pupil told how the missing boy had said he wanted to spend the night in a subway under an autobahn. A policeman found him wrapped up but nevertheless freezing.

Then there was the nine-year-old girl who hid herself in a forest because she was being teased at school. When she saw the lights of the search party, she pulled herself further down into her hiding place. The following day, the girl took her place at school as if nothing had happened.

The results are not always so happy. Inspector Schleindlsperger: "Missing children necessitate urgent action. The worst thing is that we don't know whose hands they might have fallen into."

There was the case of a small girl called Michaela who was found dead four weeks after disappearing. She was the victim of a sexual attack.

There are 14 employed at the missing persons bureau. Whereas they begin investigating missing children immediately, it is more difficult in the case of adults. When does a missing adult become missing? The person could have simply set off to do something without telling anybody. It is a difficult decision for the officers.

In theory it is easy because the police regulations put it *clearly: "People are considered to be missing* if they have abandoned their normal pattern of daily life, if the whereabouts of their accommodation is not known and if they can assumed to be in danger. For children and those who have not reached their majority, all these conditions do not first have to be met."

There is no tried and trusted pattern for a search. Searches vary in nature just as much as the persons being searched for. But in the majority of cases the procedure is: after a person is registered as missing, contact is made with the Bavarian Red Cross to check on people taken to hospital. Sometimes, checks are made with prisons.

Then the investigation moves to public transport. Inspector Schleindlsperger: "Sometimes children just go for tours on the trains or buses and are missed at home."

Occasionally, all police cars are notified by radio. And if necessary, *public* radio stations are used to put over announcements, especially when the missing person is a child, mentally ill or in other ways not entirely capable of looking after themselves.

Dogs and helicopters are used if it is believed that a person *could be in* an open area. Last year, there were 20 such helicopter searches.

If there is a possibility that someone has left Germany, Interpol is *notified*. The success of such searches, says Inspector Schleindlsperger, depends very much on cooperation with local police.

But the search for Harald S. using all technical resources and cooperation yielded nothing. The police could only keep shooting in the dark. The inspector says that in these tough cases, there are motives. "One many went on the game down to the Middle East and was run in after he was abandoned by the sheikh. There is usually something shady in the background of all these cases, a crime probably that was once committed."

But Harald S., a mathematics and physics teacher at a Munich gymnasium, was not guilty of anything. He had a house and lived in normal circumstances. After his disappearance, nothing had been touched in his house. Neither money nor papers were missing. The path he followed on his jogging was combed several times using dogs and horses. There is no recognisable motive for a crime.

Inspector Schleindlsperger: "Who would want to kidnap a teacher like this? An upright person of integrity."

But he says with resignation that he doesn't believe Harald S. is still alive.

Uwe Dolderer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 May 1989)

■ CHILD REFUGEES

War at home and a chilly reception at the other end

In the past year, 2,500 children between the ages of three and 16 have sought asylum in Germany. There have been Sri Lankan Tamils, Iranians, Turks, Pakistanis and Eritreans. Many come in groups without adults — their trips have been arranged by shadowy organisations which profit mightily from relatives. Immigration work in Germany is the responsibility of the *Bundesgrenzschutz*, or border police. Church refugee organisations which help newly arrived refugees are strongly critical of the way immigration officials treat child asylum applicants. In this article for the Berlin daily, *Der Tagesspiegel*, Irene Jung goes to Frankfurt airport to see for herself what happens. She got there just after a Tupolev 154 of the Bulgarian carrier, Balkan Air, had landed with a group of Tamil children from Sri Lanka.

The eight boys and a girl from one of the world's trouble spots were in a waiting room for foreign minors at Frankfurt's international airport. They were alone. They had nothing except bundles of clothes and, perhaps, a telephone number.

No one knew if they would ever see their parents again. They sat petrified, their arms clutching their bags. They wore thin sports jackets. The bright spot was the young girl wearing bright blue baggy trousers.

Two had remains of talcum powder on their dark faces. Talcum powder keeps people cool in the heat — it had been 30 degrees in the shade when they left Colombo.

They had since spent 20 hours in air-conditioning, first in the aircraft and then at the airport terminal. The effects could be seen: they had runny noses.

Their waiting room, at the side of the transit lounge, had a table with boxes full of Lego pieces and two rows of hard seats. Sympathetic people had pasted airline posters to the walls. From the ceiling hung a toy aircraft.

Since they landed in a Bulgarian Balkan Air Tupolev 154 plane at 11 o'clock they had not actually set foot on the earth of their new home. Their waiting room was part of the transit passenger area. Germany lay behind a door — the door of the immigration people.

At the beginning of March there was a bitter dispute about immigration service methods. The church refugee service, which looks after arriving refugees, accused officials of locking up children for hours in a room with no toilets and without food.

A woman helper said: "We couldn't bear to watch how the children were treated. It was awful."

An immigration spokesman defended the actions. He said the children were given preferential treatment. Ralf Pastor, deputy head of immigration in Frankfurt, said: "It is not unusual for 20 or 30 children to arrive on the same flight. They would often run around in the transit lounge and we would have to run round looking for them."

This is why they were kept in the waiting room, at the most for three hours, until the youth affairs office collected them. The church refugee officials were not allowed in this room.

The dispute between the church helpers and immigration official did not trouble the nine Tamil children. They did not know that this conflict between the compassionate and the controllers reflected exactly the opposing positions of West Germans to foreign refugees.

The children were tired. The interpreter, Mr Shanmugampillai, is himself an asylum-seeker from Sri Lanka. He was the first person the children could talk to — none spoke English.

Mr Shanmugampillai told them that they would now be asked about their entry into the country and that they should not be frightened.

Without any expression on their faces they fumbled about in their pockets for papers and tickets.

Suguna Kumar was the first to be asked to go into the immigration office. He jumped up at every question asked him by the immigration official, until the interpreter gently pushed him back into his seat.

The official typed out: Suguna Kumar, born on 23 December 1973. Schoolboy. Home: Jaffna.

There were 10 questions on the form. He was asked why he had come. His brother had been arrested by Indian soldiers. He said that his family had been involved with the Tamil Tigers. Because of this he had fled.

The other children, through the interpreter, gave more or less the same reasons.

Immigration officials have grown accustomed to these stereotyped stories. Since July last year 2,500 children between the ages of three and 16 have sought asylum in this country, mostly Tamils, Iranians, Turks, Pakistanis and Eritreans.

Every day these officials come up against the fact that police examination discovers little about the experiences these children have been through. How can they be expected to explain that they have been caught up in a war?

In addition their tickets and passports throw light on the manipulations of the "channelling" organisations which help refugees to leave the country for the payment of a lot of cash. Exodus from the war zones is perfectly organised.

But it is not a matter of establishing the truth here. It is well known that in Sri Lanka Singhalese government troops and their allied Indian soldiers persecute and kill Tamil children because they form a reserve of young recruits for the Tamil freedom guerillas, "Tigers of Eelam."

According to the Hague agreement on the protection of minors none of the children can be sent back. Why then are the children subjected to this procedure?

What is involved is whether the children can produce grounds for believing they have been politically persecuted, that is grounds for seeking asylum. And whether they are in fact under the age of 16.

The crucial question is the tenth. "Are you older than the age stated in your passport? What do you have to say about that?"

It is debatable whether the children realise the consequences of their answer to that question.

Any child that admits he or she is older, must have a visa, must establish that he or she has been persecuted and must find the right words which are appropriate for the legal status of various kinds which the Federal Republic keeps on hand for foreigners.

Asylum-seekers who are of age must give assurances that they do not intend to work illegally. They have to wait for up to two days in the detention centre at the airport until the police records department acts. Then they are split up and sent to one Land or another — even if they are a day over 16.

What is age? The little girl Subashini is 11 according to her passport, but she looks six. Her wrists are like broom handles.

She constantly crumples up her jacket. She rubs her eyes once or twice. She says little. Her family home had been destroyed she said. Did she have any relations here? She held up a crumpled sheet of paper. Her father had been here for two years. That was his telephone number.

At the request of a woman immigration official, Lufthansa sent some cheese sandwiches, but only one child ate. Interviewing had already lasted two and a half hours.

Herbert Falkenbach, from the youth authority, arrived. The interpreter told the children they would be going with Falkenbach to a temporary home in Kronberg in the Taunus, where they could telephone relatives living here and arrange for them to fetch them.

The word "telephone" is the same in Tamil. Excitedly the children followed Herr Falkenbach. The woman who heads the home said that although almost all of the Tamils had contact addresses in Germany, the number who were actually picked up was declining all the time.

Along with most of the Iranians, the Tamil children would be allowed to remain in Germany, but in a home or a youth village. Their family life was over.

The house in Kronberg, the former residence of the Mumm sekt millionaire, is a classical villa in the centre of an extensive park. David Veerasingam, one of the two Tamil social workers, gave out soap, towels and toothpaste. His first job was to try and contact children's relatives.

Children already at the home showed the newcomers the new table football game and the billiards. But the most important piece of equipment was the telephone. When it rang at least 15 children rushed to it. It might be that aunt in Solingen or Berlin.

Subashini told David Veerasingam that her mother had promised that she would soon be coming with her two other children. Later he said: "Most of the mothers say this when they say goodbye."

The children say they had been getting ready to leave the country for some months. It cost about 300,000 rupees (about DM5,500), about a third of the cost of a house.

One boy was stopped at a military control point on the way to the airport and beaten up. He talks about it with a mixture of anxiety and bravado.

For supper the children had a rice dish made to a recipe from a Tamil social worker. They would not touch sauerkraut or brawn.

At seven, David Veerasingam was relieved. His colleague went through the bedrooms and spoke encouragingly to the newcomers.

The next morning Subashini would *not say it she had slept during the night. It is still* not certain when or whether her father will come to pick her up.

He is an asylum-seeker himself and he can only leave his district with permission.

The aliens office where he lives has to examine whether he may look after a child.

Officials from the youth office said that many of the homes for asylum-seekers were overcrowded with men and not suitable for a small girl. By bringing them together the officials can often be regarded as going against the law.

Falkenbach asked whether, then, it would not be better "if a child did not see its father or aunt at all."

Irene Jung

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 28 May 1989)

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tenia was diagnosed by psychiatrists and treatment was naturally unsuccessful. Loucadou: "There are hardly any doctors who have even heard of spiritualistic psychoses."

No wonder. Even after 100 years, parapsychology in this country is not really taken seriously. Loucadou fears that Germany will miss the boat internationally. But he sees little chance so far that things are going to get better.

The budget of the advice centre is a mere five thousand marks. And the Baden-Württemberg *Land* government, which was warned by von Loucadou about the threatening wave of occult practice, doesn't even want to pay the postal costs of the advice centre. The reason? There was no need for the centre.

Andreas Müller

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 2 June 1989)

Continued from page 11

and recklessly, and announced with a wink of the eye: "I love to tell lies." She introduces the characters and mixes them up for the following scenes.

But they don't go along with her. People step out of their roles, action is repeated. English, French and German are spoken, there is courtly dancing and wild whirling about.

Alongside the risible and silly there are impressive scenes, which recall Gothic altarpieces.

Franz Hummel's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra is played piece by piece, sometimes as a buzzing carpet of strings with shrill brass insertions, sometimes as a painful, beautiful violin cadenza.

The human voice is also included; a boy soprano sings of silence and forlornness.

The modern Passion follows the historical, from Jeanne d'Arc to Johanna of Hagenhill, a girl who lives in the small village of Hagenhill through which Rosamund Gilmore passes every day on her way to rehearsals.

The young woman stands on a ramp, dressed in a pink apron, her bare legs in black rubber boots, her hands folded over her stomach, her eyes cast down.

She *tells* of the visions she has seen, of her sufferings. She speaks falteringly and in broad dialect, whilst her historical alter ego listens behind.

She speaks of misunderstanding, misfortune, loneliness and violence. This maid will be put to the flames like the maid from Domrémy.

With her own hands she sets fire to herself, because she is pregnant, raped by a soldier, whom she asked about peace.

The longer the evening went on the more arbitrary the scenes became. The ideas became interchangeable.

Finally Joan is shown once more, as she lies on a man, who is unconcernedly singing a children's song.

Then the action broke off — the end, frayed and torn apart, not throught through, as if Rosamund Gilmore had capitulated before the task she had set herself.

Manuel Brug

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 2 June 1989)